

Hafa Adai!

Over 21K tax refunds totaling \$27.8M issued. **PAGE 2**

CPA passes resolution to establish airport incentive program. **PAGE 4**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## CNMI moves for complete liquidation of IPI's assets

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI government has filed a motion to convert Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy to a Chap-

ter 7 Bankruptcy which essentially means the liquidation of all IPI's property and assets to pay off debts.

Yesterday, the CNMI government, through Office of the Attorney General Chief Solicitor Robert Glass Jr., filed a motion to convert IPI's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy to a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy.

See **ASSETS** on Page 4

## USS Rafael Peralta docks at the Port of Saipan



RACQUEL FLOYD

The U.S. Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Rafael Peralta (DDG-115) arrived at the Port of Saipan last June 18.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
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CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang came aboard the USS Rafael Peralta (DDG-115)

yesterday after the U.S. Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer dropped anchor at the Port of Saipan in Puerto Rico.

The 509-foot USS Rafael Peralta (DDG-115)

See **USS** on Page 4



RACQUEL FLOYD

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is greeted by USS Rafael Peralta (DDG-115) Executive Officer Cmdr. Cam Massey yesterday at the Port of Saipan.

## CNMI on track to exceed last fiscal year's number of arrivals

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority says based off of the num-

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
The Marianas Visitors Authority held its annual general membership meeting yesterday at the Saipan World Resort.

ber of tourist arrivals seen as of May, the CNMI is on track to exceed the number of visitor arrivals seen last fiscal year.

Yesterday, during MVA's general membership meeting held at the Saipan World Resort,

See **ARRIVALS** on Page 4



## Farrell speaks on start of the Battle of Saipan

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Local historian Don Farrell

highlighted the strategic importance of Saipan and shared that the Battle of Saipan was a crucial and yet a challenging

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Historian Don Farrell speaks on the events preceding the Battles of Saipan and Tinian and the importance behind the June 15, 1944 invasion last June 13 at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center in Garapan.

» **Emphasizes importance of keeping history alive**

campaign for the U.S. military during his presentation last June 13 at the American Park

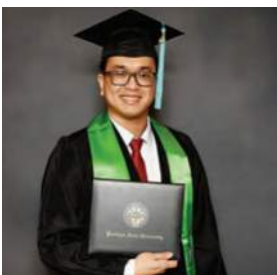
Visitors Center.

Farrell, who spoke in the eve of the commemoration of 80 years of peace in the Pacific since the Battle of Saipan and Tinian, began his talk by quoting Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner who said that the

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## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Marc Christian A. De La Torre, a member of the Tau Sigma Academic Honor Society at the Portland State University, has obtained a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from PSU.

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### LOCAL

In a testament to perseverance and dedication, Erica Jonette Leon Guerrero, daughter of Juan and Juana Leon Guerrero, a graduating senior at Oregon State University, has triumphed over the challenges of online education.

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### LIFESTYLE

Japan's Emperor Naruhito said Wednesday he is "delighted" to finally be able to visit Britain after the trip was delayed by several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# Local

## Over 21K tax refunds totaling \$27.8M issued

Division of Revenue and Taxation has issued 21,654 tax refunds totaling more than \$27.8 million. This distribution includes refunds and rebates, Child Tax Credits, and Earned Income Tax Credits, providing substantial financial relief to CNMI taxpayers.

The breakdown of the refunds is as follows:

■ Refunds and rebates: \$5,477,079

■ Child Tax Credit (CTC): \$6,544,404

■ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): \$15,793,316

CTC and EITC are critical tax credit programs that support qualifying families with children and low to moderate-income working individuals

and families, respectively.

DRT estimates that approximately 65% of 1040CM returns have been successfully processed. The DRT team processes tax returns daily, and refunds are uploaded weekly.

As of this week, DRT will begin processing the American Opportunity Tax Credit refunds and will keep the public updated on its progress on more complex returns.

"Tax refunds provide much needed financial relief to our residents and stimulate our local economy," Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said. "I commend the Department of Finance for their diligent efforts in processing these refunds."

"Our team has been work-

ing hard to ensure that all eligible taxpayers receive their refunds promptly and we continue to release batches weekly," Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita said. "The timely distribution of over \$27 million is a testament to our commitment to efficient and effective public service, and we're thankful for the community's patience as we push forward this tax season."

Norita urges taxpayers who have yet to receive their refunds to check their status by contacting the Division of Revenue and Taxation at (670) 664-1040. For more information, visit the CNMI Department of Finance's website at [www.finance.gov.mp](http://www.finance.gov.mp). (PR)

## Carol Lee named to dean's list at Georgia Tech for the Spring 2024

ATLANTA, Georgia—Carol Lee of Saipan made the dean's list for the Spring 2024 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is one of the top public re-

search universities in the U.S., developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its more than 47,000 undergraduate and graduate students represent 54 U.S. states and territories and more than 143 countries. They

study at the main campus in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, or through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than \$1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society. (PR)

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# CPA passes resolution to establish airport incentive program

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite tensions rising between board members, a majority of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board voted in favor of passing a resolution that would make way for the establishment

of an airline incentive program.

Yesterday, tension arose between board member Thomas Villagomez and board vice chair Anthony Cabrera during the voting process of CPA resolution 2024-04.

Villagomez, along with board member Ramon Tebuteb, raised

concerns about passing the resolution as they practiced their fiduciary duties to ensure that CPA wasn't violating any rules and regulations.

In response, Cabrera stated that all that was needed was a yes or no answer adding that multiple discussions about the

resolution had already been had and it was time to vote.

Ultimately, Villagomez voted against the resolution's passing while Tebuteb chose not to vote at all.

Meanwhile, the resolution passed, 5-1, with the other five board members voting

in favor of it.

Essentially the resolution passed reinstates airport fees prior to the October 2023 rate adjustment to allow the special committee to finalize an airport incentive program.

"I'm going to frank, we can discuss details all day, but times are changing. Things are developing and we have to make changes as we go. It's not perfect but we're trying to address something that can really impact our islands. We can talk about this subject to death but nothing will happen while in the meantime our economy is slowly dying as we are busy [arguing]," CPA chair Joe Ayuyu said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back in September 2023, the previous CPA board adopted a new rate methodology that reflected a

90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal rental fees which makes up CPA's fiscal year 2024 budget.

The increase took effect in October 2023.

With the adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main terminal went up from \$19.49 per square foot to \$34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals went up from \$7.79 to \$13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA charges international airline carriers \$15.25 per thousand lbs of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged \$8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase brings landing fees up from \$4.81 to \$9.15.

## ARRIVALS

From page 1

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion shared that as of May, the CNMI has seen over 160,000 visitor arrivals.

This puts the CNMI on track to exceed the number of arrivals seen last fiscal year which was around 194,700.

"As of May, [the CNMI's seen] 160,151 visitors so far for this fiscal year. We are on track to exceed last fiscal year but still 61% lower than before Super Typhoon Yutu and 37% lower than before the pandemic," he said.

Concepcion shared that Korea makes up most of the CNMI's visitor arrivals.

"We are seeing a solid performance from our Korea market but countered by strong challenges in our other source markets. Korea comprised almost half of all arrivals before Super Typhoon Yutu and the pandemic. Today, Korea represents 76% of all our visitors," he said.

As for the rest of the market, Japan and China hold a small share.

"Japan is about the same market share before the typhoon and the pandemic. We expect Japan numbers to grow slowly but the extremely unfavorable exchange rates, their stagnant economy, and their shift toward domestic travel are really slowing recovery. Arrivals from China were

about equal to Korea but are now only 6% of our market share," he said.

Fortunately, Concepcion said the China market is expected to grow as Hong Kong Airlines' twice-weekly flights continues.

"Hong Kong Airlines started twice-weekly flights to Saipan last April which is great news. Marketing of those flights are being led by our private sector partners as MVA hasn't had an office in China since COVID. There is incremental growth anticipated from China with these flights from Hong Kong but we just don't have the same number of direct flights as we had before the pandemic," he said.

Regarding the development

of a strong, third source market, Concepcion said MVA has explored Taiwan, Australia, and Singapore.

"We attended meeting, trade shows, expos, road shows to reintroduce the Marianas to airlines, tour operators, travel agencies who might be interested in doing business here. We will continue this effort, but we must note that once committed partners are identified, it will take time and a lot of money to open a new market that is not yet familiar with the Marianas," he said.

On a positive note, Concepcion said the CNMI is seeing more traction in destination enhancement, which in turn makes for better visitors experience.

## FARRELL

From page 1

Battle of Saipan was a "real nutcracker" as Japan had controlled the Northern Mariana Islands since 1914.

Dozens of community members and visiting guests joined the discussion. During his presentation Farrell focused on the lineup of events that aggravated the Battle of Saipan and Tinian during the Pacific theater of World War II and also highlighted certain key roles Saipan and Tinian played in the Pacific War.

He also gave historical context to history, sharing that during World War I, Japan, as an ally of England, gained control of German territories in the Pacific, including the Northern Mariana Islands. The U.S. pursued imperialism after the Spanish-American War, acquiring territories like the Philippines and Guam.

Farrell shared that the Dec. 7, 1941 attack by Japan was meticulously planned to disable the U.S. Pacific Fleet and stressed the strategic coordination of subsequent attacks in Guam and the Philippines, noting that just three hours after the Pearl Harbor attacks, the Japanese launched a bomb from Saipan's As Lito airfield to Guam.

After Pearl Harbor, due too massive losses for the U.S. Navy, the U.S. prioritized protecting its lines of communication to Australia, one of its key allies closest to Japan.

Farrell underscored the U.S. shift from isolationism to becoming a global power post-World War I and how Japan's aggressive expansion in Asia led to inevitable conflict. He explained that Japan's strategy aimed to force the U.S. into a truce by crippling its military capabilities, but ultimately, the U.S. resolved to continue the fight. "The Battle for Saipan was one of the most difficult,

most creative battles the United States ever fought," said Farrell.

Farrell's talk provided a comprehensive overview of the historical significance and strategic intricacies of the Battle of Saipan, emphasizing the broader context of U.S. and Japanese military strategies during World War II.

Following the presentation, the media had a couple of minutes of brief conversation with Farrell and he shared the importance of the location of the Northern Mariana Islands and the importance in keeping history alive.

"The young people today in the Marianas need to understand that these islands are strategically located. There's nothing that anybody can do about that. The reason why wars have occurred here has nothing to do with the people or the islands themselves. It's their location. And if there's a larger company, a country, who has the desire, they will come and try to take this island. Or they will try to create a situation that will neutralize this island so that they can be doing what they want to do somewhere else."

Farrell said that's why it's important to understand that you cannot eliminate the concept of war totally.

"War is a reality that nobody likes, but everybody has to learn to deal with. So, what can you do to prepare yourself for it? Get well educated. Take good physical condition of yourselves and participate in your government. Participate in your government both locally and regionally. The more communications we have between people, the less likely we are to have misunderstandings. Most wars develop from misunderstandings," he shared.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## USS

From page 1

*Peralta* has a crew of 330 and she arrived on Saipan last June 18.

"So, our visit here is just part of a routine port visit. Our ship is stationed out of Ishigaki, Japan and we operate in the Western Pacific in the southern Fleet area of responsibility. We routinely patrol all the waters of the Western Pacific and while we're out on patrol, we routinely pull in the ports of

opportunity for rest and relaxation and also to resupply fuel and food," said USS *Rafael Peralta* Commanding Officer Cmdr. Stephen Szachta

The USS *Rafael Peralta* crew hosted a tour for Palacios, Aparang, and members of the media. Visitors were guided through the ship by subject matter experts who explained how the crew safely operates and navigates the vessel.

During the tour, when a canteen was shown, a question was asked if they never ran out of food. "Oh, so we generally

try to take anywhere between 30 and 45 days' worth of food when we're out, just gets us flexibility, how often we can stay out so what we try to do is every time we pull into a port, we're trying to get food and gas pouring that the Navy also has what we call underweight replenishments," said USS *Rafael Peralta* Executive Officer Cmdr. Cam Massey.

The USS *Rafael Peralta* is expected to depart tomorrow morning.

USS *Rafael Peralta* is an Arleigh Burke-class guided

missile destroyer in the United States Navy. The destroyer can operate with a Carrier Strike Group, Expeditionary Strike Group, as an element of a Surface Action Group, or independently. The ship can conduct a variety of missions in support of national military strategy. From peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, 115 will be capable of carrying out Integrated Air and Missile Defense, Undersea Warfare, Surface Warfare, and Strike Warfare in multi-threat environments.

has no ability to operate as a casino; its casino gaming license is currently suspended and, until they were stayed by the filing of this case, two proceedings seeking revocation of the license were pending due to debtor's failure to pay significant fees to the commission and for its failure to comply with an order of the commission requiring a payroll reserve," said Glass.

"The debtor has also failed to maintain appropriate fire and damage insurance and general liability insurance as required by its lease agreement LA 15-002S for its lease of public lands from the Commonwealth posing a significant risk to the debtor's bankruptcy estate and the public," Glass adds.

The NMI Bankruptcy Court is set to hear the motion in August.

Last April 19, 2024, IPI filed its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition with the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Court.

the final orders for First Day Motion's hearing on June 21,) putting the creditor body at a distinct disadvantage in the case. Neither the interests of the debtor's creditors nor its estate would be served by having the debtor continue to unnecessarily incur the expenses associated with a Chapter 11 reorganization. Accordingly, there is 'cause' under section 1112(b) of the Bankruptcy Code for the court to convert [IPI's case] to a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code," he said.

Glass, in his motion, notes that the Commonwealth represents \$87,573,315, or 52.8%, of IPI's largest unsecured claims.

"This debt has accumulated due to debtor's failure to make payments to several Commonwealth agencies since 2020," said Glass.

Breaking the over \$87.5 million down, Glass said IPI owes \$62,010,280 to the Commonwealth for non-payment of Annual License Fees

due Aug. 12, 2020; Aug. 12, 2021; Aug. 12, 2022; and Aug. 12, 2023.

In addition, IPI owes the Commonwealth Casino Commission \$17,620,000 for the non-payment of the Casino Regulatory Fees due Oct. 1, 2020; Oct. 1, 2021; Oct. 1, 2022; and Oct. 1, 2023, including associated penalties.

Lastly, Glass says IPI owes the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Taxation and Revenue \$7,943,035.39 for the non-payment of its taxes, including penalties and interest.

"Debtor has not operated since 2020 and, thus, it has no income and is unable to pay post-petition obligations that continue to accrue—like its rent due April 28, 2024, that has not yet been paid, and the pending annual Casino License Fee that will be due Aug. 12, 2024. Debtor has no ability to generate revenue; its hotel building is unfinished and has never been operational. In addition, debtor

## ASSETS

From page 1

While Chapter 11 Bankruptcy allows for a business/individual to reorganize and restructure, Chapter 7 Bankruptcy essential means the complete liquidation of a business' property and assets which may result in the company's dissolution.

Glass argues that based on public information available, IPI does not have the financial wherewithal to successfully proceed under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

"The debtor has no business to reorganize, cannot show that there is a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation, and has failed to maintain insurance. At the same time, the debtor seeks to encumber the bankruptcy estate with \$7,000,000 in post-petition financing (\$400,000 of which was allowed by this court's interim order, with the remaining amount to be decided at

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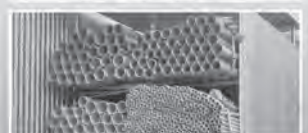


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# Saipan son obtains bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from PSU

Marc Christian A. De La Torre, a member of the Tau Sigma Academic Honor Society at the Portland State University, has obtained a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from PSU.



De La Torre

PSU conferred upon De La Torre the Degree of Bachelor of Science Criminology and Criminal Justice during a commencement ceremony in the Moda Center at the Rose

Quarter last Sunday. In 2022, he made the PSU President's List for fall term as a result of his outstanding academic achievements. In 2023, he made the Dean's List for spring term as a result

of his outstanding academic achievements. In October 2022, De La Torre successfully completed Justice, a course of study offered by HarvardX, an online learning initiative of Harvard University.

In June 2023, he successfully completed Citizens Politics in America: Public Opinion, Elections, Interest Groups, and the Media, a course of study offered by HarvardX. Before PSU, De La Torre

completed his Associates Degree of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from the Northern Marianas College in May 2020. He got his high school diploma from Marianas High School in 2017. (PR)

## Leon Guerrero successfully hurdles challenges of distance learning

CORVALLIS, Ore.—In a testament to perseverance and dedication, Erica Jonette Leon Guerrero, daughter of Juan and Juana Leon Guerrero, a graduating senior at Oregon State University, has tri-

umphed over the challenges of online education while hailing from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Despite the geographical distance, Erica Leon Guerrero has successfully navigated

the digital landscape of higher education to earn a well-deserved degree. Originally from the pristine shores of the Northern Mariana Islands, Erica Leon Guerrero embarked on their

academic journey at OSU with a commitment to excellence and a thirst for knowledge. Throughout her tenure, she demonstrated resilience in adapting to virtual classrooms, bridging the Pacific Ocean to participate actively in OSU's vibrant academic community.

Leon Guerrero majors in Environmental Sciences, College of Earth, Science, and Atmospheric Sciences.

As Leon Guerrero prepares to graduate, her achievements shine brightly among her peers. She has not only excelled academically but has also enriched the OSU community with her unique perspective and cultural heritage from the CNMI. Her journey serves as an inspiration to fellow students and educators alike, showcasing the transformative power of education in overcoming geographical barriers.

Oregon State University, renowned for its commitment to inclusivity and academic rigor, has provided Leon Guerrero with a platform to excel. As one of the pioneers in online education, OSU's flexible learning environment has empowered students like Leon Guerrero to pursue their educational aspirations regardless of location.

With a deep sense of accomplishment, Leon Guerrero looks forward to utilizing their OSU education to make meaningful contributions both locally in the CNMI and globally. Her journey from the Northern Mariana Islands to Oregon State University exemplifies the university's mission to foster global citizens and prepare graduates for success in a rapidly evolving world.

As Leon Guerrero prepares to join the ranks of OSU alumni, her story serves as a beacon of hope and determination for future generations of students pursuing higher education from remote locations around the world.

Congratulations to Leon Guerrero and the entire Oregon State University Class of 2024 on their remarkable achievements and best wishes for the future endeavors that lie ahead. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION  
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P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
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The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

### Position Description

Position Title: Program Assistant  
Salary Range: \$10.00/hr to \$14.00/hr

#### Job Summary

The Program Assistant will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV and its Board to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Assistant will support the daily operations of NMCADSV, including support for NMCADSV staff, the Executive Director and/or NMCADSV Board/Members, as assigned.

#### Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Executive Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities; including event planning, logistics for NMCADSV and Board meetings, preparation of materials, and travel logistics
- Provides administrative and clerical support to the Executive Director and the NMCADSV Board of Directors and Members; including receiving calls, receiving and logging mail, and maintaining records, as assigned
- Maintains and manages the NMCADSV membership database
- Assists with finance and operations of the NMCADSV; including daily bookkeeping, vendor relations and record keeping
- Attends all meetings and conference calls, as requested
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required by the Executive Director
- Oversees the maintenance of office equipment and manages office inventory
- Assists the Executive Director in grants management, including the preparation of application packets and gathering data for reports
- Performs other duties, as assigned

#### Minimum Qualifications

- High School Diploma, or equivalent
- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- Experience in providing clerical and administrative support, including record keeping
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Willingness to learn in all areas of NMCADSV operations
- Flexible Schedule
- Must be able to travel

#### Highly Desired Qualifications

- 1 year of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

#### To Apply:

A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2024. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit resume and cover letter to management@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within the last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-2301MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

### Position Description

Position Title: Program Coordinator  
Salary Range: \$14.00/hr. to \$18.25/hr.  
Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt. Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

#### Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV's Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

#### Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

#### Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

#### Highly Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

#### To Apply:

A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2024. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.


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
This project is supported by funds awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice and Grant No. 2301MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Justice or the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Updates for the Gala can be found on Instagram @minayoutreach, Facebook / MINAPACIFIC or call (670) 233-7333 for more information. **(PR)**

tional component for our African American countrymen and women, which we all come together to celebrate. Each generation becomes the next guardian of these ideals so that America can always stand for 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'" (PR)



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)



**Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport**  
**“Car Rental Concessions”**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**for: CPA-RFP-005-24**

**CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

**LEO B. TUDELA**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Donald Trump and that 'horrible' city

**W**e're not fancy campaign consultants or anything, but it seems to us less than optimal to be the presumptive Republican Party nominee for president of the United States and then trash the swing-state city where your party plans to hold its convention just a few weeks later.

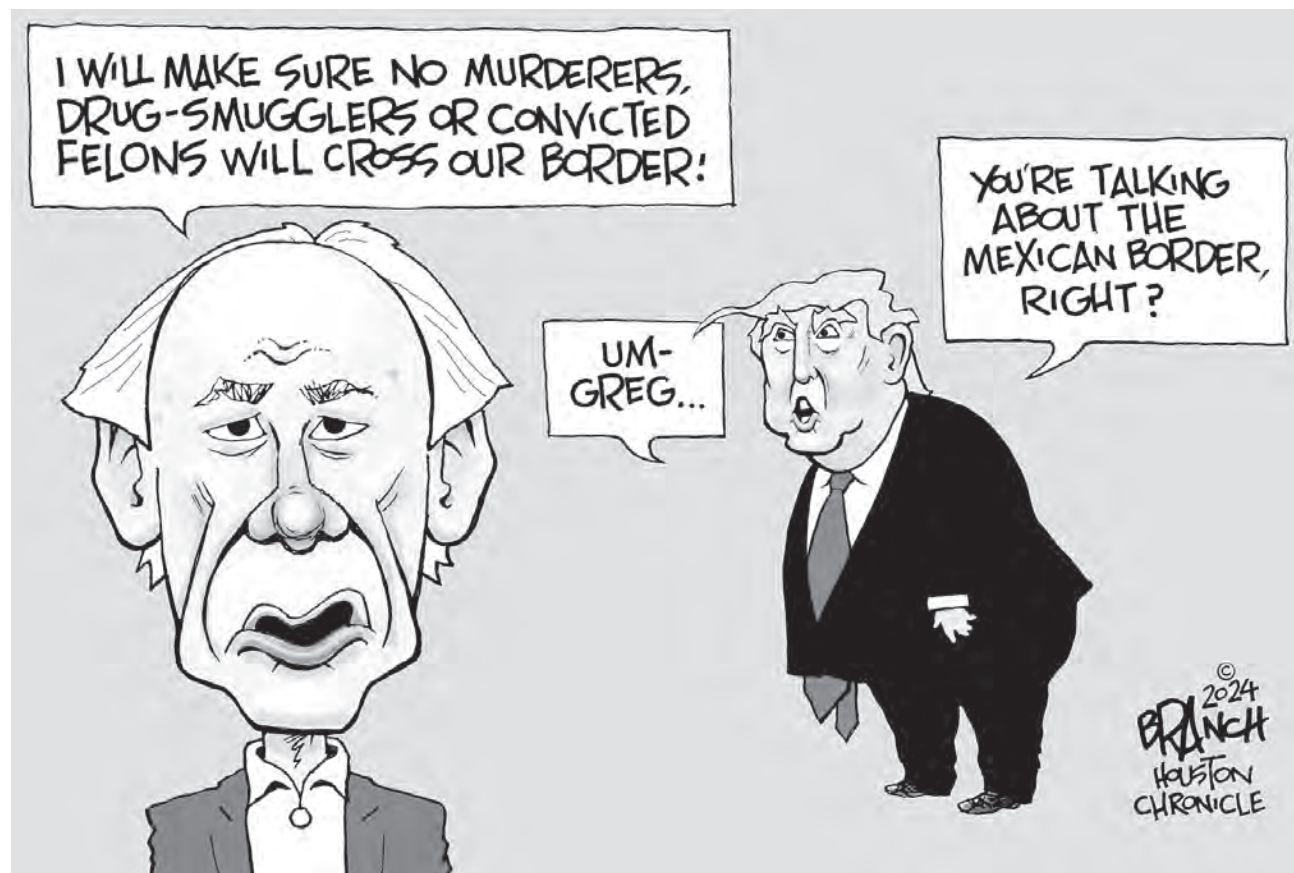
Precisely what Donald Trump said about Milwaukee in a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill with Republican lawmakers is open to politically charged debate. Democrats seized on the phrase "horrible city," as first reported by Punchbowl, and Republicans then claimed Trump was taken out of context and was not so much making an aesthetic judgment (for which, we'd add, he hardly is qualified) as noting the prevalence of crime and other issues generally common to all urban locales, including Milwaukee. Trump supporters will no doubt laugh it off as fake news, as they have learned to do with so many of their candidate's ill-considered utterances. We'll take the Republicans at their word.

Still, we sympathize with our neighbor. The equally clueless Darren Bailey, a gubernatorial race loser, called Chicago a "hellhole" even as he was running for governor in a state that, last time we checked, includes Chicago. For the record, we think Milwaukee is a most attractive city with a really nice lakefront, robust eateries, a superb museum and theater scene, and an enviably glam casino of the kind Chicago now wishes it built years ago.

Another thing we like about Milwaukee, and Badgers in general, is the prevalent sense of humor. This pocket scandal brought it out very nicely, as first noted by Business Insider.

"Once he's settled in with his parole officer, I am certain he will discover that Milwaukee is a wonderful, vibrant and welcoming city full of diverse neighborhoods and a thriving business community," Rep. Gwen Moore of Wisconsin wrote on X, making Trump-infused lemonade.

©2024 Chicago Tribune.



## Slapped silly in the U.S. of A

**I**f you're collecting indices on the decline of civilization, you'll want to include this one on your list: two burly, overbuilt men, often bald and bearded and nearly always tattooed, facing each other across a waist-high table and taking turns slapping each other across their faces as hard as possible.

This is slap fighting. Reportedly this "sport" originated in Russia—that figures—and spread westward, apparently picking up momentum during the pandemic until it reached Nevada, where, in October 2022, the State Athletics Commission authorized the first regulated American slap fighting league: Power Slap.

The California Athletic Commission followed suit in December 2023, and Florida approved slap fighting in March. This month, the Combative Sports Advisory Board of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation is considering a change in state rules that would sanction slap fighting as a regulated combat sport. Early indications are that the answer will be yes.

This is a very bad idea.

Let's start with the obvious: Slap fighting punishes its participants with excessively brutal physical harm.

We're inclined to think of slapping as a feminized version of what men do when they get in a fight. It's the way girls fight. It's boxing lite.

This depiction of slapping, however, has nothing to do with slap fighting. The blows are powerful, vicious and damaging. Neurologist Nikos Evangelou told Sky News that the rotational forces applied to the brain by the impact of a hard slap, especially when the rules of slap fighting forbid flinching or other defensive actions, are a "recipe for disaster." He says, "It's all a matter of time before we see more serious brain injury from a dissection."

But this clinical assessment doesn't properly convey the brutality of slap fighting. For that, search "slap fighting" on YouTube and spend five minutes watching. If you haven't seen slap fighting before, I predict that you'll be shocked—or at least surprised—by how hard the blows are and by how much obvious damage is occurring.

Knockouts by the first blow are not uncommon. As the victims fall backward into the arms of husky attendants, you'll see their eyes roll back in their heads and their arms begin to tremble convulsively as they hit the floor. It's not a pretty sight.

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

*John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.*



I don't believe in the so-called "nanny state." The state should not interfere in the right of its citizens to engage in nearly any activity, even risky ones such as mountain climbing, jumping out of airplanes and smoking, as long as the rights of others are protected. If two men (or women) want to take turns slapping each other, that's their business.

But the state has an interest in regulating—and, in this case, prohibiting—the promotion of the violence and the values that slap fighting embodies, as well as the profit-taking industry that is already developing around this pseudo-sport.

By the term "state" I'm not referring to the mythical Deep State or even to the legislators, officials and bureaucrats who make up our government. The "state" I'm referring to is you and me and all the citizens who have agreed to participate in a social contract that serves the interests of individuals and our culture as a whole.

And that version of the state suffers damage when young men are given to understand that our culture unquestioningly values and supports the kind of meaningless violence embodied by slap fighting, especially when the violence is implicitly connected to the idea of what it means to be a man.

Dana White, the owner of Power Slap, calls slap fighting "the ultimate test of toughness." No, it isn't. It's actually a way for White and the developing slap-fighting industry to turn a profit that relies on human carnage and the promotion of a set of very bad values.

With mutual consent, Americans should be allowed to slap each other all they want. Knock yourself out. But the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation should say no to the slap-fighting industry. So should the rest of us.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## What was the point of last weekend's Ukraine peace summit?

Last weekend, the Bürgenstock Resort in the Swiss city of Obbürgen was a hive of diplomatic activity. The United States, Britain, France, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kenya and dozens of other countries sent representatives to a conference that was designed to reinforce support for Ukraine as it resists Russian aggression and explore ideas that could bring the war to a close on Kyiv's terms. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spent months traveling the world to enlist as many participants as possible, going so far as to call out China in public for lobbying countries against participating.

For Ukraine's purposes, the two-day conference was a hit. Delegation after delegation denounced Russian President Vladimir Putin for invading a sovereign neighbor. European Council President Charles Michel spoke some Ukrainian to show solidarity. United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak blasted Russia for escalating nuclear rhetoric. And Vice President Kamala Harris emphasized that the best way to protect the rules-based international order was to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity.

It all sounded pretty good from Zelenskyy's perspective. But other than nice words and a relatively short joint communique that reiterated the importance of the United Nations Charter and outlined three uncontroversial items—nuclear installations in Ukraine should be secured, the Black and Azov seas should be open for trade, and prisoners of war should be exchanged and unlawfully deported Ukrainian children be returned to Ukraine—it's hard to see what the conference achieved. In fact, we could question whether it was worth the effort at all.

The entire event was less about making peace and more about elevating Ukraine's own position for what an eventual peace should look like. There are no doubt leaders in the West who believe this is a worthy cause in and of itself, if only to demonstrate to Putin that his strategy of continuing the war until the West gets tired is a lost cause. But practically speak-

ing, getting on a soapbox and reiterating how terrible Russia is—even if it's wholly justified—won't do anything to actually stop the killing and resolve the war.

Bluntly put: "Peace summit" is a misnomer. This gathering wasn't about peace at all. There were no negotiations going on between the two combatants; Russia wasn't even invited to the conference (not that Russia would have joined). With the exception of Ukraine, no country in the room was actually fighting on the front lines. There was no attempt to do the difficult but necessary work of forging potential compromises. And compromises will need to be forged if the war in Ukraine is to end.

Instead, what we got was a talkathon filled with statements that might as well have been written by the same speechwriters. The event, in essence, was a way to make participants feel like they were doing something without actually doing anything. It scratched a morality itch.

Like all wars, facts on the ground and the strategic calculus of the combatants—not speechifying in faraway capitals—are the most vital elements at play. Historically, wars end in one of three ways: one side beats the other, the fighting freezes along a de facto front line (e.g., the Korean Peninsula) or the combatants come to the realization that more can be achieved at the negotiating table than the battlefield. With respect to Russia and Ukraine, we aren't near that point yet.

As it stands, we could drive several trucks through the divide in Ukraine's and Russia's positions. The two remain motivated by an intense maximalism. A day before the summit in Switzerland kicked off, Putin proposed his own set of terms—if the Ukrainian army withdraws from the four Ukrainian territories Moscow annexed in 2022 and gives up on joining the NATO military alliance, then he will order his troops to cease warfare and order his diplomats to enter peace talks. The Ukrainian government rejected the proposal immediately, calling it an attempt by Putin to divert attention from

By **DANIEL DEPETRIS**

Chicago Tribune

*Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.*



the summit in the Swiss mountains.

Given that Russia doesn't fully control any of the four territories Putin now claims are part of Russia, Kyiv was right to be dismissive of Putin's ideas.

Ukraine, meanwhile, is just as absolutist as the Russians are. Zelenskyy talks a lot about a "just peace" for Ukraine, which sounds good in theory. In reality, though, Zelenskyy's diplomatic strategy centers on a wish list, akin to what a 5-year-old child recites while waiting in line at the mall to see Santa Claus. Ukraine's own terms include a total and complete Russian withdrawal from every square inch of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea, which Russia has occupied for a decade now; tens of billions of dollars in Russian compensation for war damage; and war crime prosecutions against Russian troops, officers and officials. Zelenskyy reaffirmed his position during the conference last weekend. Time and the Ukrainian army's inability to retake territory over the last year and a half apparently haven't had much impact on Zelenskyy's thinking.

"Russia can start negotiations tomorrow if they pull out of our territories," he told reporters during the conference.

Will Zelenskyy and Putin come around to ditching maximalism in favor of compromise? I don't know. But what was clear from the outset was that the Swiss confab wasn't going to move the needle either way.

## DHS needs to resolve conflicting policies on stateless people

It's worrying when a government agency appears to go its own way over the stated commitments of the person in charge of overseeing it. Right now, Immigration and Customs Enforcement needs to do more to comply with the commitments of its leader, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, to help stateless people in America.

Sergei Kachenkov's story illustrates why. He's a member of United Stateless, a nonprofit organization founded by stateless people and where I'm the executive director. All our members have our own stories, but all stateless people are stuck in a legal limbo. We don't have passports from the countries of our birth, often because those countries disavow us for political, discriminatory or a host of other reasons, and many of us lack papers here in the United States. Sergei came to the United States fleeing the former Soviet Union in 1991. His Soviet passport is invalid because his country no longer exists. Now he lives in Alabama and is over 70. A retired real estate agent, he cares full-time for his wife, Marina, who is disabled and stateless, too. She worked for years managing Blockbuster Video stores.

Without laws to address statelessness, the couple were forced to seek other remedies for their situation, and so they applied for asylum. Their claim was denied years ago, and so they still face a final removal order by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Because ICE won't lift that order, and has not adopted a policy about statelessness, Sergei and Marina can't get protection under new protections for stateless people, introduced last year.

Their predicament is a lot more than theoretical. It's real and paralyzing. Yet it is the result of an unusual situation where one agency under Mayorkas (ICE) hasn't kept up with the direction taken by another (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) or with Mayorkas' stated desire to help stateless people.

In December 2021, Mayorkas said the Department of

Homeland Security would "enhance protections" for stateless people. And USCIS has since done much to honor that. In August 2023, USCIS amended its policy manual to define statelessness. It now addresses the legal needs of stateless people by allowing USCIS officers to consider statelessness as a positive factor in decisions. USCIS also considered statelessness in processes for H-1B employment visas. And the agency has adopted policies that can assist stateless students. We've also engaged with USCIS representatives, who have shown willingness to open dialogue.

ICE, however, has not kept up. That agency has not adopted its own policy on statelessness, and Sergei's and Marina's legal statuses are under ICE's authority, so they can't get protection under the new USCIS definition of statelessness. If ICE had a similar policy to the new USCIS definition, it could lift Sergei and Marina's final removal order, allowing people like them access to protections.

Despite having no criminal record whatsoever and despite paying taxes for more than 30 years, Sergei and Marina have also faced barriers accessing Social Security benefits. At one point, the elderly couple's benefits were cut off for two years and Marina had to turn to charity to cover her medical treatment. Sergei worries that his Social Security benefits will be cut off again and that he'll have to forage for food. He even said, "What am I going to do? Eat snakes from the woods behind our house?" When Sergei tried to explain to an officer about their predicament, he claims, the officer was rude. Sergei says the officer told the couple, "I don't care where you go, walk to Mexico, walk to Canada, just get out of this country."

Those aren't the words of a humane officer of the United States government. They sound a lot more like a soldier in the government of the country Sergei and Marina fled. I wish that Sergei's story was unique, but other United Stateless members have faced similar mistreatment.

Sergei and Marina's story is illustrative of situations facing

By **KARINA AMBARTSOUMIAN-CLOUGH**

The Fulcrum

*Karina Ambartsoumian-Clough is the executive director of United Stateless.*








many stateless people in the U.S. For all of us, being stateless makes living, working, and getting health care or an education very challenging. Even if the government tries to deport us, there is no country that will accept us. Many of us find ourselves in ICE detention as a result. In the end we are often released because there is nowhere for us to go, leaving some of us to live under deportation orders and under supervision for up to 30 years.

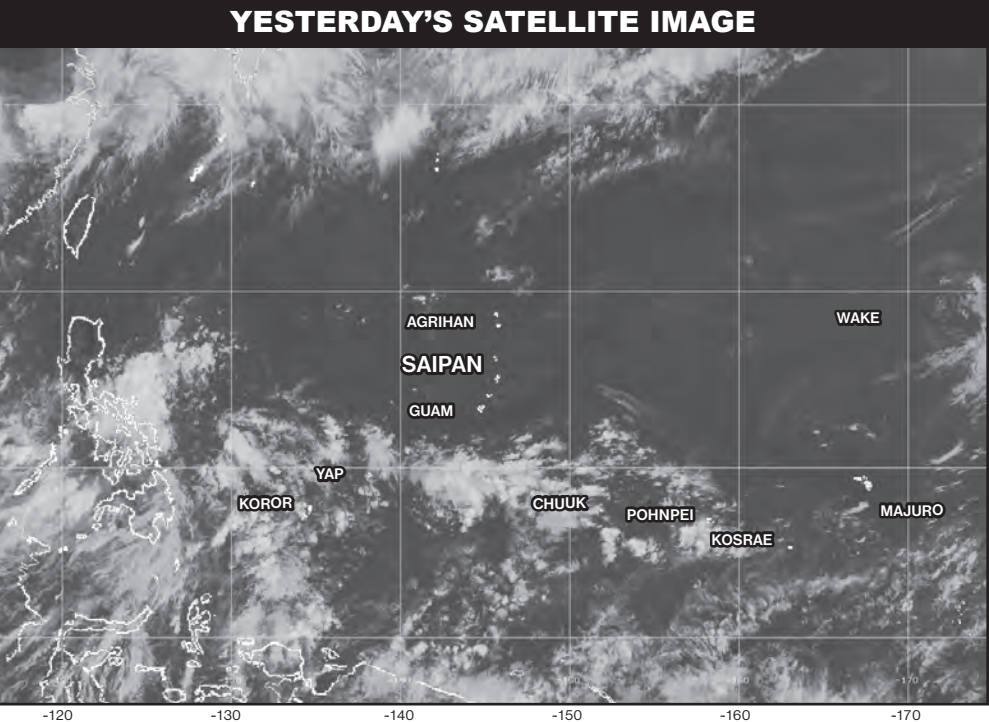
In February, Washington Post columnist Theresa Vargas wrote about one of our stateless community members. Henry Pachowski is a stateless Holocaust survivor who couldn't access Social Security benefits. His story shows anyone can get caught up in being stateless. Numbering around 200,000, we are Harvard graduates and military veterans. We run businesses. We contribute taxes to Social Security. And yet many of us are still living in fear of a knock on the door from ICE. That's despite efforts by Mayorkas to assist.

It is time for ICE to get in line with its leadership, its sister agency and the international community. ICE must adopt the international definition of statelessness and ensure that legal protections are available to stateless people to avoid legal limbo and indefinite detention. And it can do more. It can also collect data on stateless people applying for immigration relief.

What I fail to understand is why ICE seems resistant to following Mayorkas's commitments. What's going on here?

# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters, with more of the same upstream to at least 160E. The Ritidian buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of a 2 to 4 foot east swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 79°	
Palau	Showers	89° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:35 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:31 AM	7:12 PM
Sunday	-	6:32 AM	8:11 PM
Monday	-	7:35 AM	9:05 PM
Tuesday	-	8:37 AM	9:54 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 55°	
Beijing	Fair	98° / 76°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°	
London	Thunderstorm	73° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 63°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 80°	
Melbourne	Rain	55° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°	
New York	Clear	86° / 70°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 57°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	72° / 63°	
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°	
Salem	Sunny	92° / 69°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 69°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	90° / 71°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:59 AM	Low Tide	1.51	
5:44 AM	High Tide	1.98	
1:19 PM	Low Tide	-0.18	
8:47 PM	High Tide	2.02	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# Japanese students bring cultural exchange to Guam



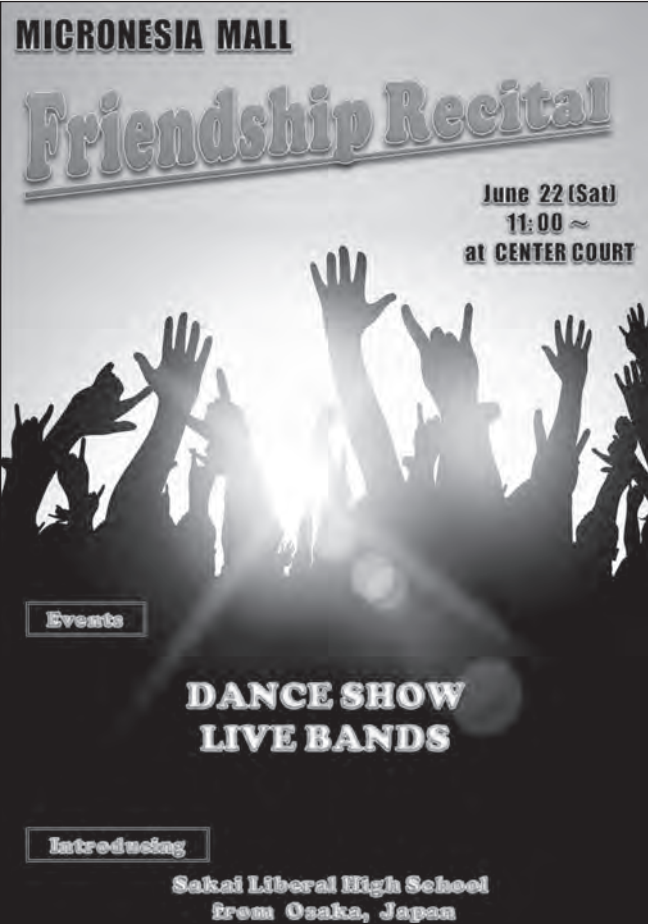
Students of Sakai Liberal High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Event poster created by Sakai Liberal High School student.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Event poster created by another Sakai Liberal High School student.

**DEDEDO, Guam**—Sakai Liberal High School students from Osaka, Japan are set to captivate audiences at the Micronesia Mall Center Court on Saturday, June 22, 2024, starting at 11am with a Friendship Concert. This special event will feature dynamic dance, song, and band performances, showcasing the students' talents and celebrating Japanese culture.

Sakai Liberal High School stands out in Japan for its unique focus on expression education, dedicated to nurturing self-expression and communication skills through various art forms including dance, acting, and musical instruments. The school's visit to Guam marks an exciting opportunity for cultural exchange, as over 40 students at this

girls-only school will share their cultural heritage and artistic prowess with the local community.

All are invited to join us in welcoming these talented students to Guam. These students are excited to showcase what they've been learning at their unique school, expression education.

Their school understands the importance of expression through the arts and humanities. We invite you to take a peek at a different kind of curriculum that nurtures

these types of skills to create confident, well-spoken and expressive females who will become future artists, teachers, and leaders.

The event promises to be a highlight in Guam's cultural calendar, offering residents and visitors alike a chance to experience the beauty of Japanese performing arts while fostering international friendships. Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness the creativity and cultural pride of Sakai Liberal High School students.

For more information, contact Yasuo Aida at (671) 727-7169. **(PR)**

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### ACCOUNTANT

**Duties & Responsibilities**  
Prepares, examines, and analyzes accounting records, financial statements, and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Interpret and apply applicable accounting and financial laws, codes, regulations and standards. Reconcile data, prepare adjustments and post account and journal entries. Analyze, and review business activities operations, costs, revenues, payables, and obligations to project future revenues and expenses. Advice management about issues such as resource utilization, tax strategies, and budget forecasting. Prepare and compute payrolls, withholding taxes, 941-SS employer's federal tax return, W-2 wage & tax statements, W-3SS, transmittal of wage & tax statements, annual reconciliation, corporate income taxes, & financial statements. Compute monthly, quarterly, & annual taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment & reporting as required by state and federal agencies. Reconcile bank account statements and checks/petty cash disbursements. Perform other duties as required and assigned.

**Requirements & Qualifications**  
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy with 48 months of experience in the position. Proficient with and be able to use QuickBooks and other Accounting software. Must be familiar with CNMI and Federal tax compliances. Well-organized, proactive, attention to details, deadlines oriented and must be able to resolve complex issues with prudent judgment and tact.

Interested applicants must submit their updated resume & supporting credentials to  
DKK Inc. office, Mon-Fri 8:00-4:00.  
PMB 214 Box 10005 Saipan MP96950 Northern Mariana Islands (670) 235-3313 saipanwinners5@gmail.com

## DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

### CNMI GOVERNMENT

#### INVITATION TO BID

## ITB24-DPS-42400108

**SUBMISSION DATE: July 22, 2024**  
**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“Purchase of One (1) Class “I” Vehicle for the Department of Public Safety, Saipan Highway Safety Office”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARGARITA CAMACHO AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE VIA EMAIL OR TELEPHONE AT [mdlcamacho@dps.gov.mp](mailto:mdlcamacho@dps.gov.mp) or at (670) 664 - 9122.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas  
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: [WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM](http://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM)

### DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VEHICULAR RAMP ROTA WEST HARBOR COMMERCIAL MARINA, ROTA, CNMI

#### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-24

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the “CPA”) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) and other contract provisions, for awarding a Design/Build Vehicular Ramp construction project at the Rota West Harbor Commercial Marina, Rota, CNMI. The Design/Build RFP Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **June 21, 2024**, upon payment of \$200.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. CHST, July 24, 2024**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than **ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount**. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FREDERICK PANGELINAN  
Acting Executive Director

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: [CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM](mailto:CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM) • WEBSITE: [WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM](http://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM)

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24

**SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024: 2:00 P.M.**

#### “SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL”

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING MAY 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL (RFP-008-24)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JUNE 28, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship available

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee members are pleased to announce the availability of up to three graduate scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year. These scholarships support the aspiration of American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI to build their capacity to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources by employing people from the local communities.

Students with strong ties to these territories are eligible for scholarships that cover the cost of tuition and fees and some living expenses. The amount will be based on the

university's estimated cost of attendance. Scholarship funds will be given directly to the university to cover tuition and fees before disbursement of the remaining amount to the student.

Funding for the 2024-2025 academic year will be provided based on proof of continued progress in the university program and maintenance of a 3.0 grade point average or above. The scholarship is for up to two years maximum (four semesters). If, for any reason, students do not complete their degree or other scholarship requirements (see below), the student or his/her guarantor will be responsible to repay

the scholarship amount used up to that point to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarships may be used for:

1. Completion of the junior and senior years to obtain one of the following undergraduate degrees: i) BA or BS in Marine Science at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH), or
- ii) BS in Marine Biology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), or
- iii) BS in Marine Biology or BS in Oceanography with a concentration in Fisheries Science at Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU), or
- iv) BS in Biology in the Integrative or Applied Biology track with emphasis on Marine Biology at the University of Guam (UOG).

2. Completion of one of the following graduate degrees: i) MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at the UHH, or
- ii) MS or PhD in Marine Biology at UHM, or
- iii) MS in Marine Science at HPU, or
- iv) MS in Biology at the UOG.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**Undergraduate student**

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;
2. Have successfully completed freshman and sophomore years of college with a grade point average of 3.0 or above;
3. Have been accepted to attend or currently attending one of the undergraduate programs listed for the 2024-2025 academic year;
4. Be available for an 8- to 10-week paid internship in Hawai'i;
5. Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields; and
6. Commit to being employed for two (one year for each scholarship year) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAg) or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) commencing within the year after completion of the graduate degree for which the scholarship was provided. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been used up to that point.

**Graduate student**

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;
2. Have been accepted to attend or currently attending one of the graduate programs listed for the 2024-2025 academic year;
3. Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields; and
4. Commit to being employed for two (one year for each scholarship year) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAg) or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) commencing within the year after completion of the graduate degree for which the scholarship was provided. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been used up to that point.

listed for the 2024-2025 academic year;

3. Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields; and
4. Commit to being employed for two years (one year for each scholarship year) with the American Samoa DMWR, Guam DoAg or the CNMI DLNR commencing within the year after completion of the graduate degree for which the scholarship was provided. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been used up to that point.

## ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS

**Undergraduate student**

1. Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long-term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management;
2. Provide an official college transcript of classes completed to date; and
3. Submit two letters of recommendation, one by a college instructor of your choice and one by a community leader who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in an undergraduate program of study in Hawai'i or Guam and commitment to

working in a local fisheries-related agency for a minimum of two years upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

## Graduate student

1. Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long-term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management;
2. Provide an official undergraduate college/university transcript and, if relevant, graduate-level university transcript; and
3. Submit two letters of recommendation from professors, employers and/or community leaders who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in a graduate program of study and commitment to working in a local fisheries-related agency for two years upon completion of the graduate degree.

A completed application and two letters of recommendation should be either mailed to:

■ Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, or emailed to [info@wpcouncil.org](mailto:info@wpcouncil.org).

■ Deadline to receive all application materials is FRIDAY JULY 19, 2024.


■ If mailing your application, your recommendation letters should be included in sealed envelopes with the author's signature across the closing flap.

■ If emailing your application, the letters of recommendation should be sent directly from the author to [info@wpcouncil.org](mailto:info@wpcouncil.org). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the letters are received at the Council office by the deadline.

■ Preliminary decisions will be made by Aug. 1, 2024. Preference will be given to graduate students with an estimated two years (or less) until graduation. Final decision is contingent upon:

1. Signing an advising agreement to coordinate your planned university course schedule with an assigned advisor; and
2. Signing an agreement to work with the American Samoa DMWR, Guam DoAg or the CNMI DLNR in fisheries ecosystem-related work for one year for each scholarship year or to provide immediate reimbursement for the scholarship funds that have been provided.

Questions? Contact Amy Vandehey at [info@wpcouncil.org](mailto:info@wpcouncil.org) or phone (808) 522-8220. (PR)




DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DLNR/DFW-42400105

SUBMISSION DATE: July 09, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.



**"Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Transportation and Deployment for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Research Section"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. KEENA C. LEON GUERRERO AT (670)322-6008 OR VIA EMAIL AT [KLEONGUERRERO.DFW@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KLEONGUERRERO.DFW@GMAIL.COM).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROSEMARY C. CAMACHO

ACTING DIRECTOR, DFW


/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.

ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**RFP24-GOV-42400111**

SUBMISSION DATE: July 29, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE DIRECTED TO MRS. TRACY B. NORITA, AT THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE OFFICE, VIA EMAIL AT [GHLIRFP@DOF.GOV.MP](mailto:GHLIRFP@DOF.GOV.MP).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Tracy B. Norita

SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.

ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400110**

SUBMISSION DATE: July 12, 2024 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

**"2023 Energizing Insular Communities 48K Solar Installation for the Tinian Public Library"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 1301, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, STATE ADMINISTRATOR via email at [epi.cabrera@gov.mp](mailto:epi.cabrera@gov.mp).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr.

STATE ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.

ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

# Business

## Rev & Tax successful conducts CNMI Tax Settlement Series



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Division of Revenue and Taxation office in Dandan.

The Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation is pleased to announce the successful completion of the CNMI Tax Settlement Series, which was held from June 4 to June 13, 2024, in collaboration with the University of Baltimore School of Law Taxpayer Clinic and Azarvand Tax Law.

Under special orders from DRT, these organizations provided free assistance to approximately 90 CNMI taxpayers, helping businesses and individuals resolve their outstanding tax debts and offer-

ing them a path toward financial stability. In our ongoing effort to support our taxpayers and encourage tax compliance, DRT has been working to draft settlement agreements tailored to each taxpayer's unique circumstances. These agreements offer substantial relief for taxpayers and provide a clear path to financial recovery, provided that the taxpayers adhere to the agreed-upon payment plan and maintain compliance for the specified period.

Looking forward, this successful initiative represents

a model for future outreach programs. The CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation remains committed to fostering a transparent, fair, and supportive tax environment for all our taxpayers. This collaborative initiative benefits the individuals and businesses who participate and strengthens the economic well-being of our community.

For more information, contact the CNMI Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation, at (670) 664-1040 or visit our website at [www.finance.gov.mp](http://www.finance.gov.mp). (PR)

## EU criticizes France for excessive debt

**BRUSSELS (AP)**—The European Union's executive arm on Wednesday criticized France for running up excessive debt, a stinging rebuke at the height of an election campaign where President Emmanuel Macron is facing a strong challenge from the extreme right and the left.

The EU Commission recommended to seven nations, including France, that they start a so-called "excessive deficit procedure," the first step in a long process before any member state can be hemmed in and moved to take corrective action.

"Deficit criteria is not fulfilled in seven of our member states," said EU Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis, pointing the finger at Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia and Poland, in addition to France.

For decades, the EU has set out targets for member states to keep their annual deficit within 3% of Gross Domestic Product and overall debt within 60% of output. Those targets have been disregarded when it was convenient, sometimes even by countries like Germany and France, the biggest economies

in the bloc.

This time, however, Dombrovskis said that a decision "needs to be done based on, say, facts and whether the country respects the treaty, reference values for a deficit and debt and not based on the size of the country."

The French annual deficit stood at 5.5% last year.

Over the past years, exceptional circumstances like the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine allowed for leniency, but that has now come to an end.

Still, Wednesday's announcement touched a nerve in France, after Macron called snap elections in the wake of his defeat to the hard right of Marine Le Pen in the EU parliamentary polls on June 9.

Le Pen's National Rally and a new united left front are polling ahead of Macron's party in the elections, and both challengers have put forward plans where deficit spending to get out of the economic rut is essential.

In the election campaign, Macron's camp could use the wrist-slap as a warning that the extremes will drive France to ruin, while the opposition

could claim that Macron had overspent and still impoverished the French, leaving them no choice but to spend more still.

Despite the rebuke over excessive debt, EU Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni stressed France was also moving in the right direction to address certain "imbalances," sending a "message of reassurance" to the EU institutions.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts that the French economy will grow at a relatively sluggish 0.8% of GDP in 2024, before rising to 1.3% in 2025.

And unlike the measures imposed on Greece during its dramatic fiscal crisis a decade ago, he said that excessive austerity was not an answer for the future.

"Much less does not mean back to austerity, because this would be a terrible mistake," he said.

He also disputed a claim that it was austerity itself drove voters to veer to the extreme right, pointing out that lenient budget conditions had been in force for the past years and still allowed the hard right to come out as victors in many member states.

# World

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Fate of latest cease-fire proposal hinges on Netanyahu, Hamas' leader in Gaza

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)**—The fate of the proposed cease-fire deal for Gaza hinges in many ways on two men: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas' leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar. Each leader faces significant political and personal pressures that may be influencing their decision-making. And neither seems to be in a rush to make concessions to end the devastating eight-month-long war and free hostages taken by Hamas in its Oct. 7 attack. Hamas has accepted the broad outline of the plan but requested "amendments." Netanyahu has publicly disputed aspects of it, even though the U.S. has framed it as an Israeli plan. Among the major sticking points is how to move from an initial temporary truce in the deal's first phase to a permanent cease-fire that includes an end to the fighting and full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Throughout the war, the long-serving Israeli leader has been criticized for letting political considerations get in the way of his decision-making. His government is buoyed by two ultranationalist parties that oppose cease-fire deals. Instead, they prefer continuous military pressure to try to defeat Hamas and free the hostages. They also talk about "encouraging" Palestinians to leave and reestablishing Israeli settlements, which were dismantled when Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 after a 38-year occupation. Netanyahu himself has taken a tough line on the cease-fire, saying he will not end the war until Hamas' military and governing capabilities are destroyed.

### Hundreds died during this year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia amid intense heat, officials say

**MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP)**—Hundreds of people died during this year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia as the faithful faced intense high temperatures at Islamic holy sites in the desert kingdom, officials said Wednesday as people tried to claim their loved ones' bodies. Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, required of every able Muslim once in their life, nor offered any causes for those who died. However, hundreds of people had lined up at the Emergency Complex in Al-Muaisem neighborhood in Mecca, trying to get information about their missing family members. One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Hajj. A medic who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss information not released publicly by the government said that the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official who also spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facil-

ity. Deaths are not uncommon at the Hajj, which has seen at times over 2 million people travel to Saudi Arabia. There have also been stampedes and epidemics through the pilgrimage's history. Each year, the Hajj draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from low-income nations, "many of whom have had little, if any, pre-Hajj health care," according to an article in the April edition of the Journal of Infection and Public Health. Communicable illnesses can spread among the gathered masses, many of whom save their entire lives for the pilgrimage and can be elderly with preexisting health conditions, it said.

PH demands China return rifles and pay for boat damage after hostilities in disputed sea

### PH demands China return rifles and pay for boat damage after hostilities in disputed sea

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippine military chief demanded Wednesday that China return several rifles and equipment seized by the Chinese coast guard in a disputed shoal and pay for damages in an assault he likened to an act of piracy in the South China Sea. Chinese personnel on board more than eight motorboats repeatedly rammed then boarded the two Philippine navy inflatable boats Monday to prevent Filipino navy personnel from transferring food and other supplies including firearms to a Philippine territorial outpost in Second Thomas Shoal, which is also claimed by Beijing, according to Philippine officials. After a scuffle and repeated collisions, the Chinese seized the boats and damaged them with machetes, knives and hammers. They also seized eight M4 rifles, which were packed in cases, navigation equipment and other supplies and wounded a number of Filipino navy personnel, including one who lost his right thumb, two Philippine security officials told The Associated on Tuesday. The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the sensitive conflict publicly. Video and photographs issued by the Philippine military Wednesday night show the chaotic faceoff at the shoal, with Chinese personnel onboard boats brandishing knives, axe and sticks while surrounding two Philippine navy supply boats beside Manila's ship outpost. Sirens blare constantly as both sides yell at each other and the Chinese smash the Philippine navy boat with a pole and grab what appears to be a bag with a stick.

### N. Korea says deal between Putin, Kim requires immediate military assistance in event of war

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—The new agreement between Russia and North Korea reached by their leaders at a Pyongyang summit requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance in the event of war, North Korean state media said Thursday. Both North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Russia's Vladimir Putin had described the deal reached Wednesday as a major upgrade of bilateral relations, covering security, trade, investment, cultural and humanitarian ties. Outside observers said it could mark the strongest connec-

# Life & Style

## Emperor Naruhito looks forward to deepening ties with Britain's royals

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's Emperor Naruhito said Wednesday he is "delighted" to finally be able to visit Britain after the trip was delayed by several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The royal said he looks forward to rekindling his friendship with the British royal family and exploring Oxford, where he studied about 40 years ago.

Naruhito and his wife, Empress Masako, will make a weeklong visit to Britain starting Saturday. The trip was originally planned for 2020 at the invitation of the late Queen Elizabeth II as a first of his overseas visits after his ascension to the Chrysanthemum Throne in 2019.

"I'm truly delighted to be able to make a visit to Britain this time," Naruhito told reporters ahead of his June 22-29 trip with Masako. The emperor said he regretted that they could not make the trip while Queen Elizabeth was alive.

"Through our upcoming visit, I would like to reflect on the long history of exchanges fostered between Japan and Britain," Naruhito said. He hoped to nurture the friendship with King Charles III and Queen Camilla and other members of Britain's royal family, and boost relations between the two sides through meetings and exchanges.

Naruhito thanked King Charles III for accommodating the visit despite him still recovering from cancer treatment. He wished both Charles and Katherine, the Princess of Wales, who is also undergoing cancer treatment, a speedy



Japan's Emperor Naruhito speaks during a press conference at the Imperial Palace in advance of his visit to Britain, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in Tokyo.

recovery.

Japan's imperial family has had close relations with Britain's royal family for three generations starting from his grandfather, late Emperor Hirohito.

Naruhito acknowledged that there had been difficult times when Japan and Britain fought on opposing sides during World War II, but he said Japan has since focused on peace and prosperity on the global stage. Japan and Britain have developed strong ties in areas from the economy to science and technology and culture, he said.

The trip includes a visit to Oxford University, where both he and Masako studied separately before their marriage. Naruhito said he looks forward to returning to Oxford and exploring the city with his wife

together for the first time.

Naruhito researched the 18th-century Thames River transport system while at Merton College from 1983 to 1985.

The emperor recalled the late queen serving him tea at Buckingham Palace when he visited London in 1983. He also fondly remembered being invited to a barbecue with the queen and other royals, and going fly fishing in Scotland with then-Prince Charles.

During his upcoming trip, Naruhito will visit the Thames Barrier, pay respects to the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, lay flowers at the tombs of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at the King George VI Chapel in Windsor, and visit the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, among other activities.

## Lawyer for Rushdie accused attacker says client doesn't want offered plea deal

**MAYVILLE, N.Y. (AP)**—The New Jersey man accused of repeatedly stabbing author Salman Rushdie is not interested in an offered plea deal that would shorten his time in state prison but expose him to federal prison on a separate terrorism-related charge, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Hadi Matar, 26, sat silently in Chautauqua County Court as lawyers outlined a proposal they said was worked out between state and federal prosecutors and agreed to by Rushdie over the past several months.

The agreement would have Matar plead guilty in Chautauqua County to attempted murder in exchange for a maxi-

mum state prison sentence of 20 years, down from 25 years. He would then also plead guilty to a yet-to-be-filed federal charge of attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, which could result in an additional 20 years, attorneys said.

Matar, who has pleaded not guilty, has been held without bail since his 2022 arrest after prosecutors say he attacked Rushdie as the acclaimed writer was about to address an audience at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York. Rushdie was blinded in one eye. Moderator Henry Reese was also wounded.

Chautauqua County District Attorney Jason Schmidt said



Hadi Matar, the man charged with stabbing author Salman Rushdie, arrives for an arraignment at the Chautauqua County Courthouse, Aug. 13, 2022, in Mayville, N.Y.

Rushdie, who was stabbed more than a dozen times and detailed the near-fatal attack and painful recovery in a

memoir, "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder," favors the "global resolution" proposed in the case, which

otherwise could mean two separate trials.

"His preference was to see this matter come to an end," said Schmidt. Without Rushdie's approval, Schmidt said he would have opposed reducing the maximum state prison term, given the nature of the attack.

"He came into Chautauqua County and then committed this crime, which is not just a crime against a person, but it's also a crime against a concept of freedom of speech," Schmidt said.

Matar's attorney, Nathaniel Barone, said Matar wants to take his chances at trial.

"He's saying, 'What have I got to lose?'" Barone said after the hearing.

## Suffocated girlfriend finally calls it quits

**DEAR ABBY:** My girlfriend and I broke up after six years. Both of us have children from marriages that ended seven years ago. We reached a point a year and a half ago and started looking for a house together. After realizing we couldn't afford what she wanted in a home for our blended family, our relationship became strained. The last year has been our worst.

As she suffered through job loss and other outside forces affecting her mental health, I tried to offer her more support, but she felt suffocated. I am sometimes too intense trying to find solutions, even when she says she needs space. I have not kept up my end of giving her space.

We have had the best connection of our lives, so seeing her in pain has me distraught. She says she isn't able to give what I need in our relationship, while I have strived to be a good teammate in her times of need. Now she says she is done because I didn't give her space.

She is the love of my life. What do I do during this crushing and devastating time of my life?

**DAZED IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**DEAR DAZED:** I'm sorry things didn't turn out better for you. You and your girlfriend have very different communication styles. She wanted to vent and be heard. You felt compelled to find solutions to her problems. When some-

one says they "need space," it often means the person feels pushed or smothered. It can also mean they want to dial back the relationship or may have met someone else.

**Right now, your next step should be a giant one BACKWARD. Increase your exercise schedule, spend time with friends and do not sit around alone and brooding over something you can't change. IF the two of you manage to get together again, I urge you to get into couples counseling so this kind of heartbreak doesn't happen again.**

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** Several months ago, I let the 49-year-old son of a dear friend move into my basement. "Jason" pays me rent plus utilities.

Last week, he informed me that he is not vaccinated for COVID. He was drinking at the time. Since my husband passed away with COVID in his system two years ago, I told Jason he would need to get vaccinated or find another place to live, but now I'm not sure he remembers the conversation.

How should I handle this? I don't want to alienate his mother (or him, whom I love like a son) over this.

**HEALTH-CONSCIOUS IN COLORADO**

**DEAR HEALTH-CONSCIOUS:** Ask Jason if he remembers the conversation you had in which he mentioned that he has not been vaccinated for COVID. If he doesn't recall

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**having made the statement, remind him. Then tell him that when your husband passed, he had COVID in his system, that you do NOT want to risk being exposed to COVID and that if he wishes to continue living with you, he will have to stay current on his vaccines. This need not be a confrontation if you approach the subject calmly.**

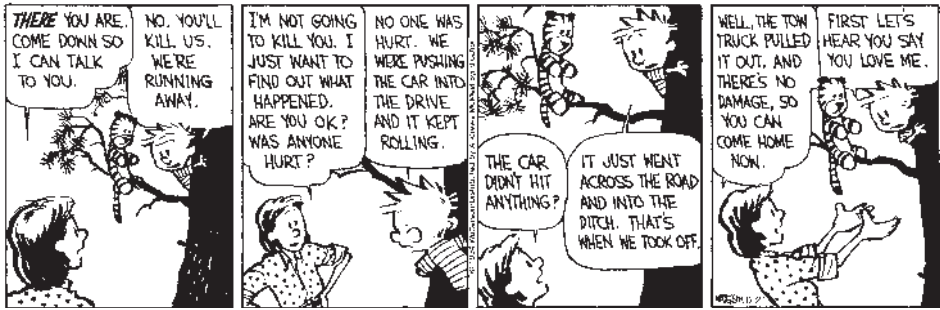
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



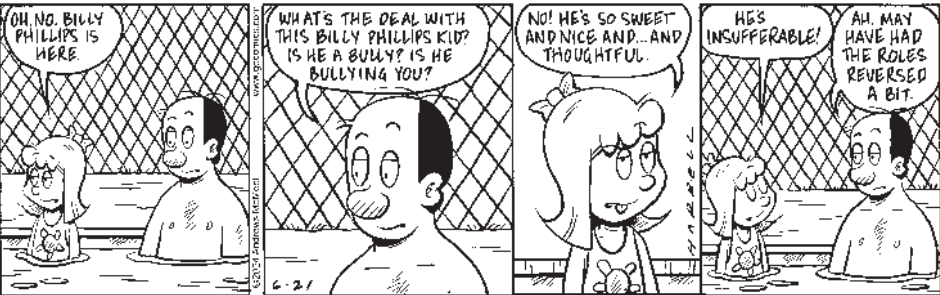
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Eastern "way"

4 — de deux

7 Sweetie

12 Mess up

13 Wyo. neighbor

14 Metal fastener

15 Actress Long

16 Memento

18 Bit of ink

19 "The Sopranos" restaurateur

20 Rosebud, to Kane

22 Born

23 Dutch cheese

27 Mensa stats

29 Windshield cleaners

31 Author Walker

34 Break a Commandment

35 Rio Grande city

37 Blend

38 Party time, briefly

**DOWN**

39 GPS suggestion

41 "Amen!"

45 Dundee residents

47 Citric beverage

48 Memento

52 Computer acronym

53 Apply, as pressure

54 Thither

55 TV schedule abbr.

56 Taboo words?

58 Layer

3 Give a speech

4 Galileo's birthplace

5 Decorates

6 Fry lightly

7 Gratis

8 —Manuel

9 Bird (Pref.)

10 De-bussy's "La —"

11 UFO passengers

17 Panorama

21 Fraught with danger

23 Strong bond

24 "Lion" actor Patel

25 "— you for real?"

26 Rockies hrs.

28 Proof letters

30 Here (Fr.)

31 Cleric's tunic

32 Young fellow

33 Glass of public radio

36 Killer whale

37 Shower unit

40 Capital of Japan

42 Third rock from the sun

43 Pueblo material

44 Macho type

45 Bygone fliers

46 Taxpayer IDs

48 "Community" actor Jeong

49 Outer (Pref.)

50 Still, in verse

51 Expert

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 6-21**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Lana Del Rey, 39; Jussie Smollett, 41; Prince William, 42; Chris Pratt, 45.

**Happy Birthday:** Knowledge is a beautiful thing. Curiosity and learning are in your best interest and will guide and help you to take advantage of opportunities. Don't trust hearsay; get your information directly, and refuse to let your emotions interfere with common sense. Protect yourself and your interests, and you'll find the path to gratitude, happiness and contentment. Use willpower and discipline to bring about positive change. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 26, 30, 34, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Labor over what's fact and what's fake until you are satisfied with your findings. Starting with the truth will help you make better decisions and determine which path will get you where you want to go. Refuse to follow someone else when it doesn't benefit you. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't cause a ruckus if you want to get things done. Look for the positive in every situation and proceed with an upbeat attitude, and you will reach your destination in good standing. Emotions and money won't mix. Avoid joint ventures or paying for someone else's mistake. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Consider where you reside and what's available to you in your community. Taking advantage of any opportunity to meet people who share your interests and concerns will promote a positive lifestyle change. Refuse to let anyone choose for you. Your life, your rules, your destiny. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Showing how much stamina you have and what you can do to pitch in and help will re-

sult in lucrative opportunities. You can expect to encounter opposition, but you will reach your goal if you handle it with finesse and intellect. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** What you hear will be entertaining but probably lack validity. Don't pass along information without disclosing where or who the information came from. It's not worth damaging your reputation to point out someone else's inadequate resources. Choose your concerns wisely. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take a moment to go over your expenses and any concerns regarding joint ventures. It's better to adjust what's troubling you than to let stress drag you down. Put yourself first and take care of your health and well-being. A pick-me-up will restore your energy. Romance is favored. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't feel you must lower your expectations because of what others do or say. Look for opportunities or new ways to use your skills. Progress is up to you, and searching for the best way to use what you do best will pay off. Do your own thing. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Care, share and grow. You have plenty to gain if you participate in life, learning and gaining worldly experience. Travel, self-improvement and financial planning that allow you the freedom to do what makes you happy are within reach. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Consider your relationships with others, and take a break from anyone dancing to a different beat. Be responsible for your mood, and recognize why you aren't achieving what's important to you. It's time to put your needs first. \*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll have plenty to consider before you decide what to do next. Don't count on anyone for anything; you won't be disappointed or miss out. Take the initiative, put things in place and enjoy knowing that the outcome will unfold according to plan. Romance is favored. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Put muscle behind your actions, and you will achieve what you set out to do. An opportunity will arise due to hard work and the space you clear to house something you want to pursue. Your action determines the outcome; reach for the stars. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Think big but stick to a tight budget. Use your creativity to devise a plan that works to make your home and life manageable and stress-free. Time spent and a talk with someone you love will offer insight into possibilities. \*\*

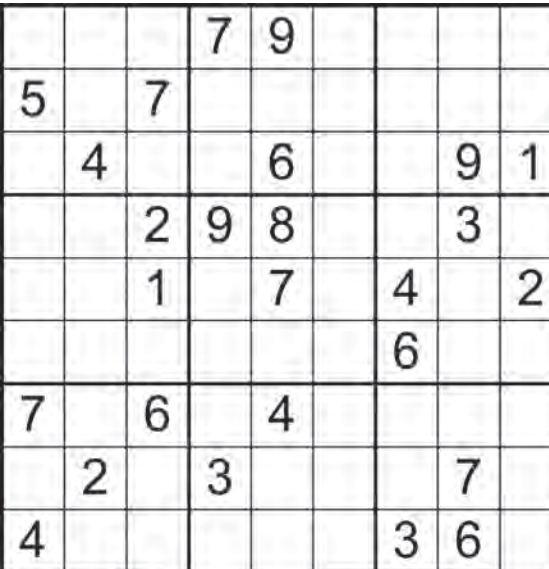
**Birthday Baby:** You are curious, ambitious and informative. You are passionate and proactive.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIMELESS PIECES

Solution: 7 letters

A N T I Q U E R U T P L U C S  
T N E C K L A C E S R U P H T  
T L O Y R A S R E V I N N A A  
I Y R I R S E M U F R E P N T  
C N N E H L S K S A M L D D U  
H I A F Y S E E D A A E R E E  
P V M L I A A W R T G L A L N  
A I E V B R L F E D N D C I O  
R N N E T U E P I J I N H E T  
G T T I S R M P D E R A A R S  
O A A L U E O R L R I C R M H  
T G E T D O N P I A O T M Y T  
O E C A W A R D H A C C W D R  
H I L A T S Y R C Y H E E O I  
P O R T R A I T E L E C A R B

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6/21

Album, Anniversary, Antique, Attic, Award, Birthstone, Bow Tie, Bracelet, Candle, Card, Chair, Chandelier, Charm, Crystal, Diary, Dress, Fashion, Fireplace, Heels, Jewelry, Masks, Medal, Necklace, Ornament, Perfume, Photograph, Picture Frame, Plate, Portrait, Purse, Record Player, Ring, Sculpture, Statue, Trophy, Veil, Vintage, Vinyl  
**Yesterday's Answer: Outlander**  
The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# Murphy has pair of 2-run homers as Braves sweep Tigers



**ATLANTA** (AP)—Sean Murphy hit a pair of two-run homers, Reynaldo López threw five scoreless innings and the Atlanta Braves completed a three-game sweep of the Detroit Tigers with a 7-0 victory on Wednesday.

López (5-2) lowered his MLB-leading ERA to 1.57. He allowed seven hits, walked one and struck out six. López has given up just four runs in 40 2/3 innings over six home starts this year.

The Braves went 5-1 on a six-game homestand and have won six of their past seven. They allowed just two runs combined in the series.

Murphy, who made the National League All-Star team last season, was hitting just .135 in 15 games this season entering the game. The catcher went 4-for-4 with 4 RBIs.

## PIRATES 1, REDS 0

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Bryan Reynolds hit a go-ahead home run in the bottom of the eighth inning and Pittsburgh edged Cincinnati.

Reynolds pounced on an 80 mph changeup from Nick Martinez (2-5) and sent it just over the wall in center field for his 10th homer of the season as the Pirates took two of three from Cincinnati.

Colin Holderman (3-0) retired the three batters he faced in the eighth after coming on for a brilliant Mitch Keller. David Bednar worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

## PADRES 5, PHILLIES 2

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Matt Waldron used his knuckleball to strike out six over seven innings and San Diego avoided a 10th straight road loss with a late rally off Philadelphia's bullpen.

A day after the Phillies used four consecutive ninth-inning hits to rally for a 4-3 win, Waldron (5-6) and two relievers helped the Padres snap a five-game skid that started against the Mets. The Padres avoided their first 0-6 trip since 2009 and had lost nine straight overall on the road. They hadn't lost 10 straight away games since 2013.

Bryce Harper homered twice for the Phillies, his 27th career multi-homer game and second of the season. His 17 homers are tied with Kyle Schwarber for the team lead.

## MARLINS 4, CARDINALS 3

**MIAMI** (AP)—Otto Lopez hit a two-out single in the bottom of the ninth to drive

in Tim Anderson and Miami defeated St. Louis.

Lopez's liner off Ryan Fernandez (0-2) was bobbled by right fielder Alec Burleson, but is doubtful he would have had a play. Tanner Scott (6-5) got the win after pitching a scoreless top of the ninth.

The NL-worst Marlins took two of three from the Cardinals, who fell back below .500 at 36-37.

Kyle Gibson had been scheduled to start for the Cardinals after being on the bereavement list this week following a death in his family, but was scratched just before game time with back tightness.

## CUBS 6, GIANTS 5

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Ian Happ hit a 442-foot homer, Dansby Swanson made it back-to-back longballs and the Chicago Cubs hung on to beat San Francisco.

Jorge Soler made it interesting in the eighth inning with a 444-foot grand slam over the bleachers in left field against Tyson Miller that got the Giants within one, but Colten Brewer pitched around back-to-back walks to Wilmer Flores and Brett Wisely in the ninth and finished for his first save.

Kyle Hendricks (1-4) pitched neatly into the sixth inning, allowing one run on two hits in his longest outing of the season and lowering his ERA from 8.20 to 7.46.

## NATIONALS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Jesse Winker hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the sixth inning and Washington defeated Arizona.

Ildemaro Vargas added an RBI single for Washington, which has won nine of 11 overall and seven of its last eight at home.

Arizona (36-38) was denied getting back to .500 for the first time since April 16, when it was 9-9.

Arizona starter Brandon Pfaadt cruised through five scoreless innings in just 50 pitches, allowing just one runner to reach scoring position.

## GUARDIANS 8, MARINERS 0

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Tanner Bibee struck out a career-high 12 in six innings, Josh Naylor homered twice and had four RBIs, and Cleveland beat Seattle in a battle of American League division leaders.

Bibee (5-2) struck out multiple batters in each of the first five innings, allowing three hits and one walk. The right-hander had 11



AP  
Atlanta Braves' Sean Murphy (12) rounds the bases after he hit a two-run homer against the Detroit Tigers in the third inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in Atlanta.

strikeouts in his previous start on June 12 at Cincinnati, his first double-digit game in the majors.

Steven Kwan hit a two-run homer and José Ramírez and Bo Naylor each had two hits for the Guardians, who are five games ahead of Minnesota in the Central and have won 22 of 31 games at Progressive Field this season.

## RED SOX 7, BLUE JAYS 3

**TORONTO** (AP)—Jarren Duran and Enmanuel Valdez hit solo home runs, Brayan Bello pitched six innings to snap a three-start winless streak, and Boston beat Toronto to complete a three-game sweep.

Duran, who had two hits and two RBIs, extended his hitting streak to 10 games. Valdez scored all three times he reached base as the Red Sox won their fifth straight and for the eighth time in their last 10 games.

The past eight series between Boston and Toronto have all been sweeps, with the Red Sox winning three. The Blue Jays and Orioles also had eight straight meetings finish as sweeps in 2009 and 2010.

Toronto made four errors. The Blue Jays are 9-20 when they make at least one error.

## ASTROS 4, WHITE SOX 1

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Hunter Brown tossed six innings of one-run ball for his third straight win, backup catcher César Salazar had a pair of RBI singles and Houston topped the Chicago White Sox.

Jake Meyers lined a pair

of doubles to end an 0-for-17 slump and scored two runs to help Houston end a two-game slide. Mauricio Dubón drove in a run with a ground-out and single to extend his hitting streak to 12 games. Chas McCormick added a sac fly.

Andrew Benintendi hit a solo homer in the fourth for Chicago, ending Brown's streak of scoreless innings at 16, a season high for an Astros pitcher.

Brown (4-5) scattered seven hits, struck out six and walked none in his sixth straight quality start. The 25-year-old right-hander, in his second season in Houston's rotation, lowered his ERA to 4.72 after a rough start.

## RANGERS 5, METS 3

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Leody Taveras hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning and Texas, after not having a hit until the sixth, beat the New York Mets.

The slumping Texas center fielder didn't even start the game, but entered on defense in the top of the seventh. He had only five hits in 59 at-bats (.085) his last 18 games until the homer to right-center off reliever Drew Smith (1-1).

The reigning World Series champion Rangers ended a five-game losing streak and avoided being swept in consecutive series. They are still nine games behind AL West-leading Seattle, which took all three games against them last weekend.

Pete Alonso hit his 16th homer for the Mets, whose seven-game winning streak

was their longest this season. They had won 11 of their previous 13 games.

## ORIOLES 7, YANKEES 6, 10 INNINGS

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Cedric Mullins hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and scored on a throwing error to help Baltimore hold off the New York Yankees.

New York ace Gerrit Cole was charged with two runs over four-plus innings in an up-and-down season debut after returning from an elbow injury. He was on the hook for his first loss since Aug. 19 last year until Giancarlo Stanton rallied the Yankees late.

The slugger greeted All-Star reliever Yennier Cano with a three-run homer that pulled the Yankees to 5-4 in the seventh, then laced a tying single off closer Craig Kimbrel (5-2) with one out in the ninth.

It was Kimbrel's fourth blown save in 20 chances this season, but the Orioles bounced back.

Mullins blooped an RBI single to center field off Clay Holmes (1-3) that scored automatic runner Anthony Santander from second base with one out in the 10th. Mullins raced to second on the throw to the plate, then stole third and scored easily when catcher Jose Trevino's toss sailed high into left field.

## RAYS 3, TWINS 2, 10 INNINGS

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Tampa Bay scored on a throwing error by Minnesota's Royce Lewis with two outs in the 10th inning for a victory that stopped the Twins' six-game winning streak.

The Rays, who improved to a major league-best 25-11 in games decided by one or two runs, won for just the fourth time in their last 12 games.

Jason Adam (4-1) pitched a perfect ninth for the victory. Phil Maton worked a 1-2-3 inning in the 10th for his second save, with closer Pete Fairbanks unavailable after the thumb on his throwing hand was bruised by a comebacker the night before.

## ROCKIES 7, DODGERS 6

**DENVER** (AP)—Brenton Doyle broke a ninth-inning tie with a sacrifice fly and Colorado rebounded from a tough loss to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Doyle's fly ball to center was deep enough for Jake Cave to score from third, giving Colorado the victory a night after the Rockies blew a five-run lead in the ninth in-

ning in an 11-9 loss.

Cave and Eliehuris Montero led off the ninth with singles off Yohan Ramirez (0-3), and rookie Adael Amador, who had two hits, reached on a fielder's choice.

Michael Toglia homered and tripled and Jalen Beeks (3-3) pitched an inning of relief to help Colorado snap a four-game skid.

Shohei Ohtani doubled, singled and drove in three runs for Los Angeles. Freddie Freeman also had two hits for the Dodgers.

Los Angeles' Bobby Miller made his first start since April 10 after spending more than two months on the injured list because of inflammation in his right shoulder.

## BREWERS 2, ANGELS 0

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Freddie Peralta struck out eight over six innings of three-hit ball, outdueling Tyler Anderson in Milwaukee's victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Rhys Hoskins and Willy Adames drove in runs for the Brewers, who took two of three in Anaheim to open their Southern California road trip.

Peralta (5-4) rebounded from a rough outing against Cincinnati last week with a strong effort against the punchless Angels. Although he walked two and wasn't particularly efficient, Peralta repeatedly escaped trouble.

Los Angeles got two runners into scoring position in the sixth, but Peralta retired Logan O'Hoppe on a hot grounder up the middle with his final pitch.

## ATHLETICS 5, ROYALS 1

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Luis Medina held down Kansas City to get his first victory in more than 11 months and Oakland won their second straight game following a nine-game skid, beating the Royals.

Medina (1-2) had lost five straight decisions since beating Boston on July 18 last season but was sharp against the struggling Royals. He allowed one run on an RBI double by Bobby Witt Jr. and six hits in 5 2/3 innings for the win in front of an announced crowd of 4,557 fans.

Brett Rooker hit a pair of RBI singles for Oakland and Zack Gelof hit a solo homer to provide the offense. Medina and the bullpen did the rest, giving the A's their first back-to-back wins since a six-game winning streak that ended May 4.

A's relievers threw 3 1/3 scoreless innings, ending a streak of 13 straight games that the bullpen allowed at least one run.

# Willie Mays, Giants' electrifying 'Say Hey Kid,' dies at 93

By **HILLEL ITALIE**  
AP NATIONAL WRITER



Willie Mays, the electrifying "Say Hey Kid" whose singular combination of talent, drive and exuberance made him one of baseball's greatest and most beloved players, has died. He was 93.

Mays' family and the San Francisco Giants jointly announced Tuesday night he had died earlier in the afternoon in the Bay Area.

"My father has passed away peacefully and among loved ones," son Michael Mays said in a statement released by the club. "I want to thank you all from the bottom of my broken heart for the unwavering love you have shown him over the years. You have been his life's blood."

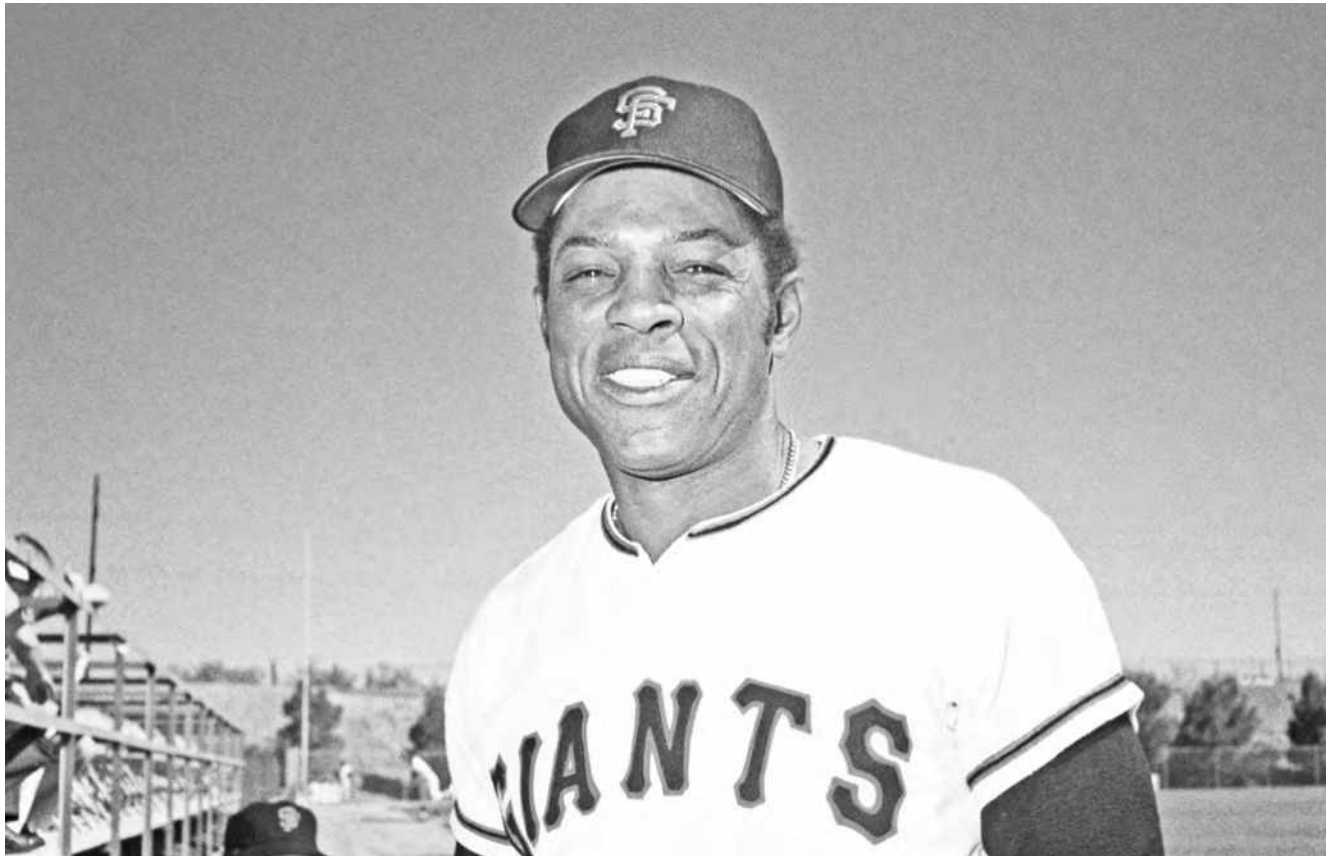
The center fielder, who began his professional career in the Negro Leagues in 1948, had been baseball's oldest living Hall of Famer. He was voted into the Hall in 1979, his first year of eligibility, and in 1999 followed only Babe Ruth on The Sporting News' list of the game's top stars. The Giants retired his uniform number, 24, and set their AT&T Park in San Francisco on Willie Mays Plaza.

Mays died two days before a game between the Giants and St. Louis Cardinals to honor the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama.

"All of Major League Baseball is in mourning today as we are gathered at the very ballpark where a career and a legacy like no other began," Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Willie Mays took his all-around brilliance from the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League to the historic Giants franchise. From coast to coast ... Willie inspired generations of players and fans as the game grew and truly earned its place as our National Pastime."

Few were so blessed with each of the five essential qualities for a superstar—hitting for average, hitting for power, speed, fielding and throwing. Fewer so joyously exerted those qualities—whether launching home runs; dashing around the bases, loose-fitting cap flying off his head; or chasing down fly balls in center field and finishing the job with his trademark basket catch.

Over 23 major league seasons, virtually all with the New York/San Francisco Giants but also including one in the Negro Leagues, Mays batted .301, hit 660 home runs, totaled 3,293 hits, scored more than 2,000 runs and won 12 Gold Gloves. He was Rookie



San Francisco Giants' Willie Mays poses for a photo during baseball spring training in 1972.

of the Year in 1951, twice was named the Most Valuable Player and finished in the top 10 for the MVP 10 other times. His lightning sprint and over-the-shoulder grab of an apparent extra base hit in the 1954 World Series remains the most celebrated defensive play in baseball history.

"When I played ball, I tried to make sure everybody enjoyed what I was doing," Mays told NPR in 2010. "I made the clubhouse guy fit me a cap that when I ran, the wind gets up in the bottom and it flies right off. People love that kind of stuff."

For millions in the 1950s and '60s and after, the smiling ballplayer with the friendly, high-pitched voice was a signature athlete and showman during an era when baseball was still the signature pastime. Awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2015, Mays left his fans with countless memories. But a single feat served to capture his magic—one so untappable it was simply called "The Catch."

In Game 1 of the 1954 World Series, the then-New York Giants hosted the Cleveland Indians, who had won 111 games in the regular season and were strong favorites in the postseason. The score was 2-2 in the top of the eighth inning. Cleveland's Vic Wertz faced reliever Don Liddle with none out, Larry Doby on second and Al Rosen on first.

With the count 1-2, Wertz smashed a fastball to deep center field. In an average park, with an average center fielder, Wertz would have homered, or at least had an easy triple. But the center field wall in the eccentrically shaped Polo Grounds was more than 450

feet away. And there was nothing close to average about the skills of Willie Mays.

Decades of taped replays have not diminished the astonishment of watching Mays race toward the wall, his back to home plate, reach out his glove and haul in the drive. What followed was also extraordinary: Mays managed to turn around while still moving forward, heave the ball to the infield and prevent Doby from scoring even as Mays spun to the ground. Mays himself would proudly point out that "the throw" was as important as "the catch."

"Soon as it got hit, I knew I'd catch the ball," Mays told biographer James S. Hirsch, whose book came out in 2010.

"All the time I'm running back, I'm thinking, 'Willie, you've got to get this ball back to the infield.'"

"The Catch" was seen and heard by millions through radio and the then-emerging medium of television, and Mays became one of the first Black athletes with mass media appeal. He was a guest star on "The Donna Reed Show," "Bewitched" and other sitcoms. He inspired a handful of songs and was named first in Terry Cashman's 1980s novelty hit, "Talkin' Baseball (Willie, Mickey & The Duke)," a tribute in part to the brief era when New York had three future Hall of Famers in center: Mays, Mantle of the Yankees and Snider of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The Giants went on to sweep the Indians, with many citing Mays' play as the turning point. The impact was so powerful that 63 years later, in 2017, baseball named the World Series Most Valuable

Player after him even though it was his only moment of post-season greatness. He appeared in three other World Series, in 1951 and 1962 for the Giants and 1973 for the Mets, batting just .239 with no home runs in the four series. (His one post-season homer was in the 1971 National League playoffs, when the Giants lost to the Pittsburgh Pirates).

But "The Catch" and his achievements during the regular season were greatness enough. Yankees and Dodgers fans may have fiercely challenged Mays' eminence, but Mantle and Snider did not. At a 1995 baseball writers dinner in Manhattan, with all three at the dais, Mantle raised the eternal question: Which of the three was better?

"We don't mind being second, do we, Duke?" he added.

Between 1954 and 1966, Mays drove in 100 or more runs 10 times, scored 100 or more 12 times, hit 40 or more homers six times, more than 50 homers twice and led the league in stolen bases four times. His numbers might have been bigger. He missed most of 1952 and all of 1953 because of military service, quite possibly costing him the chance to overtake Ruth's career home run record of 714, an honor that first went to Henry Aaron, then Mays' godson, Barry Bonds. He likely would have won more Gold Gloves if the award had been established before 1956. He insisted he would have led the league in steals more often had he tried.

"I am beyond devastated and overcome with emotion. I have no words to describe what you mean to me," Bonds wrote on Instagram.

Mays was fortunate in es-

caping serious injury and avoiding major scandal, but he endured personal and professional troubles. His first marriage, to Margherite Wendell, ended in divorce. He was often short of money in the pre-free agent era, and he received less for endorsements than Mantle and other white athletes. He was subject to racist insults and his insistence that he was an entertainer, not a spokesman, led to his being chastised by Jackie Robinson and others for not contributing more to the civil rights movement. He didn't care for some of his managers and didn't always appreciate a fellow idol, notably Aaron, his greatest contemporary.

"When Henry began to soar up the home-run chart, Willie was loathe to give even a partial nod to Henry's ability, choosing instead to blame his own performance on his home turf, (San Francisco's) Candlestick Park, saying it was a lousy park in which to hit homers and this was the reason for Henry's onrush," Aaron biographer Howard Bryant wrote in 2010.

Admirers of Aaron, who died in 2021, would contend that only his quiet demeanor and geographical distance from major media centers—Aaron played in Atlanta and Milwaukee—kept him from being ranked the same as, or even better than, Mays. But much of the baseball world placed Mays above all. He was the game's highest-paid player for 11 seasons (according to the Society for American Baseball Research) and often batted first in All-Star Games, because he was Willie Mays. From

center field, he called pitches and positioned other fielders. He boasted that he relied on his own instincts, not those of any coach, when deciding whether to try for an extra base.

Sports writer Barney Kremer has often been credited with nicknaming him "The Say Hey Kid," referring to Mays' spirited way of greeting his teammates. Moments on and off the field sealed the public's affection. In 1965, Mays defused a horrifying brawl after teammate Juan Marichal clubbed Los Angeles Dodgers catcher John Roseboro with a bat. Mays led a bloodied Roseboro away and sat with him on the clubhouse bench of the Dodgers, the Giants' hated rivals.

Years earlier, when living in Manhattan, he endeared himself to young fans by playing in neighborhood stickball games.

"I used to have maybe 10 kids come to my window," he said in 2011 while visiting the area of the old Polo Grounds. "Every morning, they'd come at 9 o'clock. They'd knock on my window, get me up. And I had to be out at 9:30. So they'd give me a chance to go shower. They'd give me a chance to eat breakfast. But I had to be out there at 9:30, because that's when they wanted to play. So I played with them for about maybe an hour."

He was born in Westfield, Alabama, in 1931, the son of a Negro League player who wanted Willie to do the same, playing catch with him and letting him sit in the dugout. Young Mays was so gifted an athlete that childhood friends swore that basketball, not baseball, was his best sport.

By high school he was playing for the Birmingham Black Barons, and late in life would receive an additional 10 hits to his career total, 3,293, when Negro League statistics were recognized in 2024 by Major League Baseball. With Robinson breaking the major league's color barrier in 1947, Mays' ascension became inevitable. The Giants signed him after he graduated from high school (he had to skip his senior prom) and sent him to their minor league affiliate in Trenton, New Jersey. He began the 1951 season with Minneapolis, a Triple-A club. After 35 games, he was batting a head-turning .477 and was labeled by one scout as "the best prospect in America." Giants Manager Leo Durocher saw no reason to wait and demanded that Mays, barely 20 at the time, join his team's starting lineup.

## Pikaboo, Albert top ROF 2 main events

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR



Saipan's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez and Guam's Jake Albert came out victorious in the two main events of last Saturday's Trench Warz Promotions' Ring of Fire 2 at the Garapan Central Park.

Alvarez, fighting out of Trench Tech Gym, topped Guam's Isaac "Lion Heart" Crisostomo in a unanimous decision in their kickboxing duel, while GuamMuayThai's Albert did the same thing against Alvarez's teammate Ram "Korean Blood" Lee in their boxing bout.

Alvarez got the nod of all judges—CNMI Wrestling Federation president Rick Bauer, NMI News Services' Brad Ruzsala, and local MMA analyst Ben Salas—30-27, 30-27, and 30-27. Albert also won all three rounds with a score of 39-27, 29-28, and 29-28.

"I was accurate with my strikes and landed a good amount of heavy shots each round. Even when I started feeling tired. I was able to dodge and counter. My opponent was super tough as

no matter how many shots I landed on him he kept pushing forward and never backed down. Was a super fun fight after being out of the game for a long time. Kid is tough and has a bright future ahead of himself, he's only 20. If he keeps it up and gets more wins and experience under his belt, I definitely owe him a rematch if he'd like one!" said Alvarez.

It was already sort of a return engagement for the 30-year-old Financial & Insurance Services Group staff as the COVID-19 pandemic put the island's MMA scene into a standstill since 2019.

"Felt great to step back in the ring as it's been six years since my last fight! This is also the heaviest I've ever fought at in my career, but I was still fast and felt very strong. Definitely was fun and I'm motivated to stay in shape and stay consistent. I'm not as in shape as I want to be, but considering only 2-3 months of consistent training over the past six years I definitely feel I'm on my way back to my prime," said Alvarez after his fight.

He then dedicated this win to Trench Tech Gym and all his training partners who also

fought in Ring of Fire 2.

"Although we fight our fights alone, it's definitely a team effort in the gym sparring with and pushing each other daily. I'd also like to thank my sponsor this fight Caravan Restaurant as they were a huge help in making me cut the weight and still feel strong. I was at my heaviest before this fight at 205 lbs and dropped down to 170 lbs. Also, to all

my fans and supporters who continue to believe in my skills no matter how long it's been we do this for y'all and the haters as well as they keep us motivated and focused. Also, to my girl Candy and son Styles Alvarez because this is my first official Father's Day thanks to him. They both motivated me to get back to my best and continue striving for greatness," he said.

Albert, for his part, said he was happy with the unanimous decision victory over Lee.

"Not the outcome I wanted, but regardless I am happy with the results. I'm happy about my win as all the hard work paid off from my fight camp. I want to dedicate this victory to my coaches for training me, correcting me, and being understanding. Also, to my teammates and supporters," he said.

As for his opponent, Albert said Lee "did great! Push through all three rounds."

Other winners of ROF 2 are the following: Jyro Cruz,

Nate Zhuang, Kody Palacios, Aiden Nekaifes, Justin Agulto, Jun San Nicolas, Marnel Cornelio, Thomas Agulto, Beng Beng Palacios, Phil Gregorio, Dylan Promdi, Keith Sablan, Dylan Benavente, Etan Affleje, Jose Camacho, Jimmy Polk, Jeremiah Salvador, Boni Sagana, Donovan Santos, and John Lee.

The fight between Dion Ogo and Lorenzo Reyes ended in a draw and there was also an exhibition match between Sky-lee Mesa and Grachen Pintor.

## GOLD

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7-5. She then battled through the super tiebreaker and won, 10-8.

For Heras, she duked it out against Leilah Etscheit, 3-6, 7-6(2), 10-5. She was down 5-6 in the second set but gained a tiebreaker and won, 7-2. That sent the match to a super tiebreaker with Heras coming out on top 10-6 to secure the gold medal for the NMI women.

In the doubles, Heras and Hoo Wang teamed up against Leilah Etscheit and Williams for a resounding, 6-0, 6-0 win for their first point.

Then, the men's team went up against Guam and also swept the competition, 3-0, for the tennis team's second gold medal of the Games.

Colin Ramsey and Robbie Schorr tied up Aarman Sachdev and Aidan Schembari, 6-0, 6-0, for one point.

In the first singles match between Schorr and Schembari, the former whizzed past the latter in two sets, 6-4, 6-1, for the second point. Then, Ramsey claimed the gold for the men's team after a tough three-set matchup against Sachdev, 2-6, 7-5, 10-6, for the third point and completed the sweep.

As for the men's basketball team, they lost against Pohnpei, 52-62, and put them out of medal contention with a 2-2 record.

They have a game against Guam today to wrap up pool play.

Team captain Preston Basa said after the game, "It was a great tournament. A lot of the

teams are fast and explosive, so it's a great experience for our team."

About their run, he said, "Well I mean, you know, we may not look like it but I truly believe we gave it our all. It's hard to come knowing what we're going to face, but we had confidence in ourselves and we were able to see how much the other islands prepared and the talent that they have. So, nothing to complain about. We just gotta go get better, train, and come back stronger."

In softball, the NMI Women's National Softball Team fell to host Republic of Marshall Islands, 3-13.

But they still have a chance to advance to the bronze medal round if they win their game against Palau tomorrow.

In their game with RMI's

ace on the mound that left them almost hitless in their debut, the NMI team managed to record seven hits. First base woman Mayiah Duenas hit an inside the park home run, while Christy Aldan hit a triple, scored a run, and had two hits. The other run was scored by Kianu Aldan in the third inning.

With yet another medal rush from swimming and tennis and athletics also chipping in, the CNMI regained first place in the medal standings with 53 gold, 19 silver, and 19 bronze medals—topping the 44-gold medal record the CNMI posted in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. Nauru is second with a 45, 13, and 4 gold-silver-bronze haul, while sitting in third is host Marshall Islands with 9 gold, 19 silver, and 29 bronze.

## SWIMMERS

From page 20

er gold in the women's 100-yard freestyle (9:30.10) with Sari Barman winning bronze (10:00.31).

Aleksenko and Watanabe finished 1-2 in the men's 200-yard individual medley with times of 1:53.19 and 2:06.04, respectively, while Litulumar won her first individual gold in the women's 200-yard individual medley (2:23.75). Guerrero bagged a bronze in the same event with a time of 2:31.05.

Aleksenko dominated again in the men's 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.55, before Battalones fell to a familiar rival in host Marshall Islands's Ann-Marie Hepler (25.36-25.60).

Watanabe added another gold in the men's 200-yard breaststroke with a swim of 2:11.02, while Battalones returned to winning form in the same event in the women's division by touching the wall in 2:31.30. Litulumar was second in 2:44.77.

The CNMI ended the day and the pool competition with back-to-back relay wins as Pajarillaga, Miller, Watanabe, and Aleksenko were golden in the men's 400-yard medley relay in 3:35.51. Ditto for Raho, Litulumar, Guerrero, and Battalones women's 400-yard medley relay (4:15.29).

CNMI National Swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Team NMI's domination in the pool was expected.

"I think it's natural. We've been practicing that much."

Aleksenko, for his part, said doing well and winning all his events was good preparation for college swimming.

"Because I can compare my times to their records and see how close I am to them," said the incoming freshman at Keiser University.

He also said his toughest race was the 400-yard individual medley. "Because I don't do that event."

Watanabe, who got the Kimura's nod as the best performance of the day, said he believes his coach picked him because of the relays.

"I had a very important role of keeping the gap between us and the Palau team as small as possible so that our anchor, Isaiah, can finish first place."

On winning another gold, Watanabe again remained level-headed.

"I am very happy about the gold I got in the 200 breaststroke, but like in the 100-yard breaststroke, I was not able to get the time I wanted. Although me and the second place were about 8 seconds apart, there are people out there that are way faster than the time I got. Overall, this gold, and all the gold I got was a great experience for me."

On her first individual gold, Litulumar said she's glad all her hard work paid off.

"I'm really proud of myself and my hard work paid off. I would like to dedicate it to my family, friends, coaches, team mates, and my chap-erone from the Marshalls, Ms. Karen."

## 3 GOLD

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In the evening events, Tan reclaimed her gold medal throne in the 5,000m with a time of 19:25.54 and left the three other competitors in her dust. A distant second place was Guam's Keira Paz at 20:47.62, while bronze was Palau's Ava Planz at 23:11.99.

Tan said after her win, "It was honestly really hard because the weather was super humid and hot like Solomons and Saipan. I also practically ran the whole race alone, so there was no one to pace me or help me reach a certain goal time, but, I said, 'just stick to your plan, run your own race, and see what happens and it worked out, so here we are.'"

She said her goal was to run under 19 minutes because she knew it was hot, but said at the time of her interview without her official results out, "if that's the case, yay, if it's not yay either way. I brought home a gold so that's all that matters."

With her first ever Micronesian Games, she said, "It's always nice to represent the flag. Not everyone has the opportunity to compete in the Micro Games, Pacific Games, Pacific Mini Games, Oceania—so just super grateful."

With her teammates' strong performance and medal haul so far, she said, "they've all been working hard throughout the year, and I think for most

of them the Micro Games was their main goal, because we do have a really good chance to do well. I think so far, we've done better than all the past Micro Games with the medal count and we're not even done yet..."

To start the day off, Andrew tallied the first gold medal of the day and broke the national record in his hammer throw event with a best distance of 33.57m. Bronze also went to NMI's Daniel Joab at 24.53m, while silver was Nauru's Jonathan Detageouwa at 30.16m.

Andrew, whose main event was the discus, said, "it was okay. I got a little nervous because one guy was throwing pretty strong, but I was lucky enough to throw farther."

On his gold medal win, he said, "I wasn't expecting to throw that good and I didn't know I could throw that well because I never threw in the hammer event seriously before."

As for Joab, whose main event is the shotput, he said the event was good. "I was not really nervous but we had strong competitors. I'm also the oldest, but I had confidence in myself too."

With his win, he said he felt pretty good but hopes that the youth will take up the sport of track and field. He said, "The best feeling in sport is actually representing your island, right? The reason I was chosen was because I qualified but if there were younger ones who quali-

fied, I would step out."

In the javelin event, Maria Quitugua threw her way to the team's third gold last night with a best distance of 32.33m. Silver was Chuuk's Kayla Kanemoto at 31.78, and bronze went to Nauru's Juneen Penite-ti with a throw of 30.14m.

Quitugua said of her win, "I'm so proud of myself. I'm so grateful to be given this opportunity to represent my island again. I'm grateful to my parents for their sacrifice, my coach for giving me this opportunity and training me. I couldn't have done it without them."

She then dedicated her win to her late brother and track star, Traven Quitugua.

As for the second bronze medal, two-sport athlete Lia Rangamar secured bronze in her debut in the hammer throw with a distance of 21.83m. Gold went to host Marshall Islands' Mia Pulianas at 33.86mm while silver was Nauru's Jaya-Shalimar Teboua at 22.40m.

Rangamar, whose main event was the javelin throw, was also placed in the hammer throw with other athletes who are also new to the event in order to have more competitors. With a 10-minute crash course for the hammer throw before the event, she said, "it was very fun. Everyone was very supportive. I think everyone of us was new to that event and it was nice to have it alongside my sister [Kina Rangamar] and

my teammates".

On her bronze medal-placing, she said, "I was actually very surprised but I was happy too. That's just another medal to our overall count."

Rangamar also plays basketball for the national team and said as a two-sport athlete, "I think after all these years that I've been competing in these Games, I think that certainly helps in how I prepare everyday. It helps that I have experience and the support of teammates and coaches... So yeah, I just try to take it day by day, see how my body feels, and try to produce."

Casey Cruz made her way to the finals of the 100m sprints with her personal best of 12.60 seconds. She said of her PB, "my 100m race was fantastic! I surprised myself, especially after recovering from an ankle injury. I feel incredibly blessed and ready for the next race!"

For seasoned sprinter Zarinae Sapong, she broke her personal best in the 100m with a time of 12.87 seconds in the finals, after resetting it the first time in the prelims at 12.95 seconds.

Athletics team coach Elias Rangamar said of the medal haul on Day 1, "They really passed my expectations—first day and three gold? I'm proud of all of them."

Today, NMI track and field athletes will take on Day 2, with more medals and records on their mind.

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Willie Mays, Giants' electrifying 'Say Hey Kid,' dies at 93.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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20 FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Gold for men's and women's tennis

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands**—After a long-winded first day of tennis events in the 2024 Micronesia Games, the NMI National Tennis Team wrapped the day up with a gold medal in the team competition at the Long Island Tennis Court yesterday.

As tennis competitions just started, they only have until Sunday to conclude all their games and with that, the team finished their games late last night.

The NMI women's team bagged the first medal for tennis against Pohnpei, 3-0.

Both Isabel Heras and Irin Chung made a comeback in

their matches to secure the last two points for the gold medal. Chung, against Louisa Williams, won 4-6, 7-5, 10-8.

According to NMI team head coach Jeff Race, he said Chung

lost the first set and was down 2-5 in the second before working her way back to take it

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI National Tennis Team poses for a group photo after their win in the team competition on the first day of tennis events in the 2024 Micronesia Games at the Long Island Tennis Courts in Majuro, Marshall Islands yesterday.

## Swimmers end pool stint with a bang

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR

The CNMI National Swimming Team pretty much ended the pool competition in the 2024 Micronesia Games the way they started it after winning almost all events yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

The last day of pool competition—today they will tackle the ocean swim—yielded much like the pattern of the last four days: 11 gold medals, three silver, and three bronze.

The NMI Team started things off by sweeping the opening relay events as Kean



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI National Swimming Team with their coaching staff pose for a group photo yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

Pajarillaga, Michael Miller, Kouki Watanabe, and Isaiah Aleksenko won the men's 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:28.68.

Moments later, Frances

Raho, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Guerrero, and Maria Batallones topped the women's 200-yard freestyle relay after clocking in at 1:45.77.

Pajarillaga then started the

individual events by winning the men's 100-yard freestyle in 8:03.68 with Justine Ma taking bronze in 8:28.51.

Raho followed with another  
See **SWIMMERS** on Page 18

2024 MICRONESIAN GAMES Unofficial Medal Standings (As of June 20, 8pm)				
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Northern Marianas	53	19	19	91
Nauru	45	13	4	62
Marshall Islands	9	19	29	59
Palau	6	35	18	59
Guam	4	1	0	5
Kiribati	2	3	7	12
Pohnpei	0	12	9	21
Yap	0	0	2	2
Kosrae	0	0	0	0
Chuuk	0	0	0	0

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NOTE: Only Northern Marianas' medal tally is updated. Other countries' medal tally is based on the unofficial results posted at the 2024 Micronesia Games website as of Thursday.



LEIGH GASES

Tania Tan, center, with her gold medal during the awards ceremony of the 5,000m in the 2024 Micronesia Games at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium yesterday.

## 3 gold, 2 bronze, nat'l record, and new PBs for athletics

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands**—The first day of track and field events started off with a bang at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium yesterday with a medal haul of three gold and two bronze, as well as a national record and new personal bests for Team

NMI in the 2024 Micronesia Games.

The first gold medal was won by Lyle Andrew in the hammer throw, then Tania Tan in the 5,000m, and Maria Quitugua in the javelin throw. The bronze medals came by way of Lia Rangamar and Daniel Joab, both in the hammer throw.

See **3 GOLD** on Page 18



LEIGH GASES

Maria Quitugua, center, with her gold medal during the awards ceremony of the javelin throw in the 2024 Micronesia Games at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium yesterday.